

Exhibit K
**Coastal Multi-Species Conservation
and Management Plan**

Supplemental Public Correspondence

**Public correspondence received
as of June 6, 2014**

From: [ODFW Commission](#)
To: [Amanda Mckenzie](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: Friday, May 23, 2014 8:37:32 AM

For your information. – Teri Kucera

From: Larry Quinn [mailto:larryq@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 8:19 AM
To: .
Subject:

As a member of Steamboaters you will already know my views.
This is just a note to affirm my (and many other's) position. No
killing of wild steelhead in the Umpqua.

From: [ODFW Commission](#)
To: [Amanda Mckenzie](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: Friday, May 23, 2014 12:06:45 PM

For supplemental correspondence. – Teri Kucera

From: umpquabill@gmail.com [mailto:umpquabill@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 8:37 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject:

Please leave the regs on wild winter steelhead as NO KILL LIMIT

Thanks

BILL LADNER

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [ODFW Commission](#)
To: [Amanda Mckenzie](#)
Subject: FW: No Kill on Wild Steelhead
Date: Friday, May 23, 2014 12:07:47 PM

Another comment for June 6 Commission packet . - Teri

From: Mark Stangeland [mailto:riverflyguide@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 10:48 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: No Kill on Wild Steelhead

Dear Commissioners,

I am for a No harvest of wild steelhead in the Umpqua Basin!

1. This is the last, best wild steelhead run in the United States, a world-famous fishery characterized by uniquely large fish as recognized in the CMP. Sound management requires caution with such a resource.
2. ODFW relies on their 2004 Biological Assessment to support harvest. Based on admittedly sketchy data, they estimate a run of 30,000 - 35,000 wild steelhead with over half coming from mainstem Umpqua River tributaries. Neither ODFW nor BLM can identify the tributaries with sufficient high quality rearing habitat to produce the half-million smolts needed for this estimated return (and it likely doesn't exist).
3. Pending Federal legislation would transfer management of O&C lands currently administered by BLM to state control, under the provisions of Oregon's Forest Practices Act. This will result in additional deterioration of fish habitat in mainstem Umpqua River tributaries
4. Climate change will have a disproportionately high impact on the upper Umpqua Basin for both flow levels and temperatures. As the only Cascade Mountains rivers in the CMP, the Umpqua headwaters depend on snowpack for summer flows, and snowpack is diminishing - note the recent news articles about record low snowpack in Crater Lake, the source for much of the North Umpqua summertime flows.
5. Given the budgetary problems ODFW is facing, they cannot identify the current state of wild steelhead or adequately monitor impacts from harvest combined with these other factors. This isn't the time to increase pressure on the best wild run in the US.

Thank you for considering this email and I hope the decision favors a NO KILL ON WILD FISH and the CMP is passed without any amendments.

Thank you,

Mark Stangeland
North Umpqua fly fishing guide

James W. Van Loan

20 May 2014

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Oregon Fish and Wildlife

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

Dear Commissioners;

I was honored to serve on The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from 1987 to 1995. During those eight years I heard a great deal of testimony from concerned citizens about the value of wild salmonids. At the same time another segment of the population could always be counted on to argue for maximum harvest of all salmonids. We used to be able to harvest wild Steelhead from the Mexican border all the way north to Alaska. We used to enjoy almost unlimited consumptive fisheries on every river in Oregon. This is no longer possible. Today the Umpqua River has one of the last, best runs of wild Winter Steelhead on this continent. We do not want to preside over the demise of this unmatched resource by adding harvest to the list of environmental challenges these animals must surely contend with in the future.

Thanks for your service to the people of Oregon and more importantly, our Fish and Wildlife.

Best wishes

Jim Van Loan

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:24 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Coastal Management Plan

Supplemental correspondence for June 6th. Teri Kucera

From: Pat McRae [<mailto:fishbums1@centurytel.net>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 1:56 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Coastal Management Plan

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing in support of Frank Moore's recent letter to you regarding the request to retain the No Harvest regulation on the Umpqua River System for wild winter steelhead.

Sincerely,

Pat and Becky McRae
1592 Lone Rock Road
Glide, OR 97443

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:31 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW:

Supplemental correspondence for June 6th. – Teri Kucera

From: dwang0900@yahoo.com [mailto:dwang0900@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 8:12 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject:

Dear ODFW Commission,

I would like to express my opinion on your plan to change the regulations for the N. Umpqua winter Steelhead. Killing these fish would not be in the best interests of this river system, nor the best interests of the steelhead. Just look across the border to Washington and California and see what has happened.

Respectfully,
David Wang DDS

Sent from Windows Mail

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:32 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Umpqua wild steelhead

Supplemental correspondence for June 6th. – Teri Kucera

From: Rich Jorgensen [<mailto:riverrichjorgensen@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 10:36 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua wild steelhead

To whom it may concern:

I live on and fish the Rogue River, yet I travel the 100 miles to the Umpqua River more than a dozen times each year to fish for wild steelhead. I expend resources to travel, stay, and fish in the Roseburg area because of the unique quality of the great sport fishery that currently exists on the Umpqua system. I encourage you to maintain the angling rules regarding wild steelhead on the Umpqua system that prohibit harvesting those fish.

Sincerely,
Richard F. Jorgensen
OR hunter/angler ID# 79858

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:33 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Coastal Management plan
Attachments: CMP opinion 2014.pdf

Supplemental correspondence for Exhibit K. – Teri Kucera

From: Mike McCoy [<mailto:mikemccoy@dcwisp.net>]
Sent: Saturday, May 24, 2014 12:02 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Coastal Management plan

To ODFW, May 24, 2014
From: Mike McCoy, Guide # 3453, Umpqua River system

RE: Coastal Management Plan

I would like to add a few thoughts and of course opinions for your consideration in the new CMP you are soon to implement.

After reading the report sent to you by our douglas county commissioners regarding the CMP and their support for harvest in the Umpqua River system I was flabbergasted and wondering just who they had consulted before making their recommendation.

Some points to consider:

1. I know most of the instate guides who utilize this fishery and find little if any support for a harvest of the very special run of fish. A large preponderance of our customers are from out of area. They come specifically to fish for this wild run of fish and are not interested in harvesting these fish. Most of them have no facility for keeping and transporting fish and are more than happy to return fish to ensure this west coast treasure is healthy and available for the future. Let's not initiate policy that could kill the goose that lays the golden egg.
1. The game commission has no ability to monitor and control harvest to ensure sustainability other than "after the fact" a look at tags after the damage has been done. More than a hundred guides are accessing this fishery (ODFW own estimate). Using even a conservative measure of extrapolation 60 to 90percent the run could easily be harvested especially on low water years as the past few have been.
1. A provision to allow the ODFW to close the lower river to angling during extreme low water conditions should be instituted by the board. Anytime the river drops into the four foot level. Under these conditions the fish pool up in a limited number of holes and are repeatedly hooked and released causing a high degree of stress and resulting in mortality.
1. I have talked at meetings with many of those calling for a harvest strategy who often proclaim they "just want to take a fish now and then, or they just want to be able to have a grandchild take a fish". When asked if they think a young person would better enjoy catching one fish and being done, or have a day where they caught multiple fish and did not have to end their day early they often have to
2. admit that the second scenario would be desirable. We do have other rivers and fisheries close by where harvest is the priority.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,
Michael J. McCoy

To ODFW

From: Mike McCoy, Guide # 3453, Umpqua River system

RE: Coastal Management Plan

I would like to add a few thoughts and of course opinions for your consideration in the new CMP you are soon to implement.

After reading the report sent to you by our douglas county commissioners regarding the CMP and their support for harvest in the Umpqua River system I was flabbergasted and wondering just who they had consulted before making their recommendation.

Some points to consider:

1. I know most of the instate guides who utilize this fishery and find little if any support for a harvest of the very special run of fish. A large preponderance of our customers are from out of area. They come specifically to fish for this wild run of fish and are not interested in harvesting these fish. Most of them have no facility for keeping and transporting fish and are more than happy to return fish to ensure this west coast treasure is healthy and available for the future. Let's not initiate policy that could kill the goose that lays the golden egg.
2. The game commission has no ability to monitor and control harvest to ensure sustainability other than "after the fact" a look at tags after the damage has been done. More than a hundred guides are accessing this fishery (ODFW own estimate). Using even a conservative measure of extrapolation 60 to 90percent the run could easily be harvested especially on low water years as the past few have been.
3. A provision to allow the ODFW to close the lower river to angling during extreme low water conditions should be instituted by the board. Anytime the river drops into the four foot level. Under these conditions the fish pool up in a limited number of holes and are repeatedly hooked and released causing a high degree of stress and resulting in mortality.
4. I have talked at meetings with many of those calling for a harvest strategy who often proclaim they "just want to take a fish now and then, or they just want to be able to have a grandchild take a fish". When asked if they think a young person would better enjoy catching one fish and being done, or have a day where they caught multiple fish and did not have to end their day early they often have to admit that the second scenario would be desirable. We do have other rivers and fisheries close by where harvest is the priority.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,
Michael J. McCoy

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:30 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Conflicting rule resolution on stray spawning hatchery fish in the CMP
Attachments: Final Reconciling Rules on for Naturally Spawning Hatchery Salmonids CMP 5-27-1-14.docx

Supplemental correspondence for Exhibit K. – Teri Kucera

From: Bill Bakke [<mailto:bmbakke@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:22 PM
To: ODFW COMMISSION; Ed Bowles
Subject: Conflicting rule resolution on stray spawning hatchery fish in the CMP

Commissioners: Please see attachment for Native Fish Society comments regarding resolving rules, policy, and direction on naturally spawning hatchery salmonids (pHOS)

--
Bill Bakke
><(((°>`...~...~...><(((°>`...
~...~...~...><(((°>`...~...~...><(((°>

“One lives with the ghosts of what was and the hunger for what could have been.”



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

May 27, 2014

ODFW Commission and Mr. Ed Bowles

Reconciling Conflicting Rules for Naturally Spawning Hatchery Salmonids

The draft Coastal Multi-Species Management Plan (CMP) and the Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP) adopted by the Commission in 2003 are in conflict with regard to managing hatchery fish stray rates and conservation of native naturally produced (wild) salmonids. We are asking the Commission to resolve this conflict so that conservation of native fish and their sustainability in Oregon can be achieved.

The NFCP requires that hatchery salmonid stray rates into natural spawning areas not exceed 10% (OAR 635-007-0507(5)).

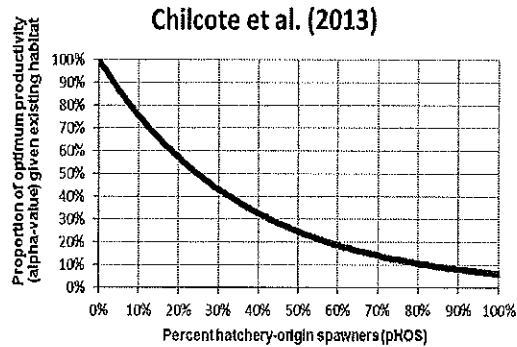
The CMP would allow greater stray rates, particularly in close geographic association with hatchery and acclimation sites on coastal rivers, where the proportions of naturally spawning fish that were of hatchery origin would be allowed to range as high as 30- 90% (CMP Table A-111:4, page 176)

The Hatchery Fish Management Policy (OAR 635-007-0542) amends the 10% hatchery fish stray rule with the adoption of the CMP by the Commission (OAR 635-007-0544(2)(3)) "The Native Fish Conservation Policy (OAR 635-007-0502 through 0505) provides the primary process for planning and coordination for hatchery programs..." But the 10% hatchery stray rate rule is suspended because it does not appear until (OAR 635-007-0507(5)). This means that when the CMP is adopted by the Commission the 10% hatchery stray rate disappears and is no longer binding (OAR 635-007-0545(7)).

Based on Department concerns for the impact of naturally spawning hatchery salmonids on wild native salmonids, the Commission adopted by rule a hatchery fish stray rate of 10% or less, and by approving the CMP the Commission will be abandoning its earlier concern.

However, the concern the Department and the Commission had about hatchery salmonid stray rates continues to be supported by scientific studies conducted by Department biologists and researchers from Oregon State University.

In 2011 and 2013 Department biologists (Chilcote et al.) published a peer reviewed study and said "We found a negative relationship between the reproductive performance in natural populations of steelhead, coho, and Chinook salmon and the proportion of hatchery fish in the spawning population." And they concluded "In most cases, measures that minimize the interactions between wild and hatchery fish will be the best long-term conservation strategy for wild populations."



In addition, Christy et al. 2011, said “These results demonstrate that a single generation in captivity can result in a substantial response to selection on traits that are beneficial in captivity but severely maladaptive in the wild. We also documented a tradeoff among the wild-born broodstock: Those with the greatest fitness in a captive environment produced offspring that performed the worst in the wild.”

In another study of hatchery and wild steelhead ecological impacts Department biologists (Kostow and Zhou 2006) found: “The combined effect of poor hatchery fish fitness and depressed wild fish production due to competition with the hatchery fish poses a double jeopardy that could quickly erode natural production in any system.”

These studies along with others over the last 36 years provide a compelling scientific reason for controlling the natural spawning of hatchery salmonids with wild salmonids in order to achieve Oregon’s commitment for conservation of native species of salmonids. The Department is proposing that the Commission through adoption of the CMP disregard the latest peer reviewed science showing that hatchery fish strays cause harm to wild salmonids.

The purpose of the Hatchery Management Policy (OAR 635-007-0542(2)) is “intended to help ensure the conservation of both naturally produced native fish and hatchery fish produced fish in Oregon through the responsible use of hatcheries.”

The purpose of the Native Fish Conservation Policy (635-007-0503(1)) is to “Prevent the serious depletion of any native fish species (ORS 496.012 and ORS 506.109(1)) by protecting natural ecological communities, conserving genetic resources, managing consumptive and non-consumptive fisheries, and using hatcheries responsibly so that naturally produced native fish are sustainable.”

Since the adoption of the CMP in its present form would be inconsistent with the stated purpose in the NFCP and the HMP as well as Oregon State Law and the best available science to which the Department contributed, the Commission should resolve this conflict before adopting the plan.

References:

Chilcote, M.W., K.W. Goodson, and M.R. Falcu. 2011. Reduced recruitment performance in natural populations of anadromous salmonids associated with hatchery-reared fish. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* **68**: 511-522.

Chilcote, M.W., K.W. Goodson, and M.R. Falcu. 2013. Corrigendum: Reduced recruitment performance in natural populations of anadromous salmonids associated with hatchery-reared fish. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* **70**: 1-3.

Christie, Mark R., Melanie L. Marine, Rod A. French, and Michael S. Blouin. 2011. Genetic adaptation to captivity can occur in a single generation. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of North America (PNAS)*

Kostow, Kathryn E. and Shijie Zhou. 2006. The effect of an introduced summer steelhead hatchery stock on the productivity of a wild winter steelhead population. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 135:825-841.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill M. Bakke". The signature is written in black ink and ends with a horizontal line.

Bill M. Bakke,
Founder and Conservation Science Director

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:46 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: North Umpqua Native Steelhead

Supplemental correspondence for Exhibit K – Teri Kucera

From: Paul Kremser [<mailto:pckremser@charter.net>]
Sent: Saturday, May 24, 2014 9:30 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: North Umpqua Native Steelhead

Dear Members of the Game Commission,

I have lived in Roseburg for 27 years and have fished on the Umpqua system throughout that time. In addition to the points I have listed below (So well put by the Steamboaters that they need to be repeated over and over!!!), I can say that the pressure on this river system has become intense, mostly by guides from three states. REMEMBER a Guide Gets A NEW SET OF TAGS EVERY DAY!!!! “One a day, five a season is NOT realistic. Last year I achieved a dream of catching and releasing a 24 pound native steel head, a dream my grand children may not realize if you allow harvesting of these unique fish. This fishery has gotten better since the no kill regs went into effect on this system. I also fish the Elk and sixes and since you have allowed one a day five a season there, the fishing has declined for steelhead.

Given the crowds that keep getting bigger and bigger on the Umpqua system, you will not likely sell more licenses than you already are by allowing these fish to be harvested.

- 1. This is the last, best wild steelhead run in the United States, a world-famous fishery characterized by uniquely large fish as recognized in the CMP. Sound management requires caution with such a resource.***
- 2. ODFW relies on their 2004 Biological Assessment to support harvest. Based on admittedly sketchy data, they estimate a run of 30,000 - 35,000 wild steelhead with over half coming from mainstem Umpqua River tributaries. Neither ODFW nor BLM can identify the tributaries with sufficient high quality rearing habitat to produce the half-million smolts needed for this estimated return (and it likely doesn't exist).***
- 3. Pending Federal legislation would transfer management of O&C lands currently administered by BLM to state control, under the provisions of Oregon's Forest Practices Act. This will result in additional deterioration of fish habitat in mainstem Umpqua River tributaries***
- 4. Climate change will have a disproportionately high impact on the upper Umpqua Basin for both flow levels and temperatures. As the only Cascade Mountains rivers in the CMP, the Umpqua headwaters depend on snowpack for summer flows, and snowpack is diminishing - note the recent news articles about record low snowpack in Crater Lake, the source for much of the North Umpqua summertime flows.***

5. Given the budgetary problems ODFW is facing, they cannot identify the current state of wild steelhead or adequately monitor impacts from harvest combined with these other factors. This isn't the time to increase pressure on the best wild run in the US.

**Thank you for advocating for our fishery resource.
Paul C. Kremser**

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: No kill on Umpqua Steelhead

Supplemental correspondence for June 6th. - Teri Kucera

-----Original Message-----

From: Nathan Hall [<mailto:natefish13@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 25, 2014 9:56 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: No kill on Umpqua Steelhead

Dear Sir or Madam,

Why a season to kill fish that are declining in every part of their historic range is up for debate is beyond me. I do not understand why people would want to kill such magnificent creatures. The "right" to fill one's freezer with meat is an antiquated idea. Very, very antiquated. What is it, 1895? Are we pitch forking thousands of salmon and sturgeon into rail cars to ship to fertilizer plants? Have people no regard for life?

This is a silly and terrible idea. Please do not let the meat fisherman yell down the thinkers and win this fight. I'd rather see all steelhead fishing made illegal than see another wild steelhead die.

Please do not let the Umpqua be ruined like so many other rivers in this state. Future generations will already look back on our embarrassing history of management with disdain. Let's not make it worse.

Regards,

Nathan Hall

Portland Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:49 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Retention of no kill limits

Supplemental correspondence for Commission. – Teri Kucera

From: Norman and Sally Christensen [<mailto:nmcsnc01@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2014 8:00 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Cc: Mike Morrison; steamboaters@hotmail.co
Subject: Retention of no kill limits

I urge that you retain the "no kill" regulation for winter fish.

The main reason for opposing any change is that there is no biologically based reason advanced to do so. Years ago the famed conservationist, Aldo Leopold, cautioned against allowing economic factors to play too great a part in wild-life management.

There are other reasons however. Foremost is the fact that although the Umpqua and its fish run through Douglas County the County does not own them; America does and that should be kept in mind while managing the fishery.

Although my address is in California I have fished and caught fish on the Umpqua since 1961 when I at the age of 38 was shown a couple of pools by Frank Moore.

Norman M. Christensen, M.D.
900 Barry Road, Kneeland CA 95549

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:08 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Proposed amendments to CMP administrative rules
Attachments: Stock Transfer Rule Proposal 5-24-14.docx

Supplemental correspondence for Exhibit K. – Teri Kucera

From: Jim Myron [<mailto:myrons@canby.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2014 9:37 AM
To: Bobby Levy; Mike Finley; ODFW Commission
Cc: Bill Bakke; Mike Moody; Peter Tronquet
Subject: Proposed amendments to CMP administrative rules

5.26.14

Dear Chair Levy and Vice-Chair Finley:

The Native Fish Society has drafted proposed amendments to the administrative rules for the Coastal Management Plan that address the issue of a Stock Transfer Policy. Since the existing rule for the transfer of coastal Chinook stocks will be eliminated by the proposed new rules, we feel it's imperative to have a replacement in the new rule set rather than leaving these decisions completely up to the whim of the staff. We respectfully request that you have a motion to adopt this amendment and vote on the motion at your June meeting.

If we have any further changes to our proposed amendment prior to the meeting we will forward them to you. We would also be willing to discuss this proposal with you and the staff prior to the meeting.

Thanks,
Jim Myron, Lobbyist
The Native Fish Society

Replaces OAR 635-500-0145 (which is being eliminated)

Proposed amendments to OAR 635-500-6575 (6) (a)

Additional language to be added to (6) (a) (or other appropriate location)

Stock Transfer Policy

The following management policy shall be applied to all river basins within the geographic scope of the CMP and is intended to control the transfer of native fish or eggs between river basins. This management policy is based on the scientific principle that salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, resident rainbow trout and most other native fish are adapted to their natal river basins.

This stock transfer policy is consistent with the Native Fish Conservation Policy and with Oregon State Law (ORS 496.012 State Wildlife Policy) that requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to "Prevent the serious depletion of any indigenous species."

- (1) The general rule is that fish stocks or eggs shall not be transferred between populations in coastal river basins.
- (2) Fish and/or eggs shall not be transferred between river basins to protect Oregon's native fish populations, their sustainability, productivity, abundance, and diversity including the investment in cost effective hatchery programs and fisheries.
- (3) The status and health of Oregon's native fish populations shall be evaluated and monitored by the Department and reported to the Commission every five years.
- (4) In river basins where native fish are documented as extinct by the Department a biologically suitable native stock may serve as a donor stock after Commission approval consistent with approved or amended basin fish management plans, the Native Fish Conservation Policy (OAR 635-007-0502), the State Wildlife Policy (ORS 496.012), and the Food Fish Policy (ORS 506.109).
- (5) Evaluation criteria and monitoring plans shall be approved by the Commission prior to the transfer of fish or eggs to achieve scientifically sound biological objectives and to establish a self-sustaining stock. The Commission shall establish terms and conditions to be fulfilled including but not limited to fishery objectives, hatchery objectives, biological objectives and impacts of hatchery strays on native fish populations in other river basins.

The Native Fish Society

5.25.14

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:25 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Please don't let them kill wild steelhead on the Umpqua river system

Supplemental correspondence for Exhibit K. – Teri Kucera

From: j h [mailto:johnump@centurylink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2014 10:53 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please don't let them kill wild steelhead on the Umpqua river system

To: ODFW
From: Terry F. Holing

As a person who lives has lived on the Umpqua river for over 30 years I have seen less fish in the spawning bed above my house. I have listed reason why you should not let the killing of native wild Steelhead.

- 1. This is the last, best wild steelhead run in the United States, a world-famous fishery characterized by uniquely large fish as recognized in the CMP. Sound management requires caution with such a resource.**
- 2. ODFW relies on their 2004 Biological Assessment to support harvest. Based on admittedly sketchy data, they estimate a run of 30,000 - 35,000 wild steelhead with over half coming from mainstem Umpqua River tributaries. Neither ODFW nor BLM can identify the tributaries with sufficient high quality rearing habitat to produce the half-million smolts needed for this estimated return (and it likely doesn't exist).**
- 3. Pending Federal legislation would transfer management of O&C lands currently administered by BLM to state control, under the provisions of Oregon's Forest Practices Act. This will result in additional deterioration of fish habitat in mainstem Umpqua River tributaries**
- 4. Climate change will have a disproportionately high impact on the upper Umpqua Basin for both flow levels and temperatures. As the only Cascade Mountains rivers in the CMP, the Umpqua headwaters depend on snowpack for summer flows, and snowpack is diminishing - note the recent news articles about record low snowpack in Crater Lake, the source for much of the North Umpqua summertime flows.**
- 5. Given the budgetary problems ODFW is facing, they cannot identify the current state of wild steelhead or adequately monitor impacts from harvest combined with these other factors. This isn't the time to increase pressure on the best wild run in the US.**

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Steve & Chris Evans <evans3002@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 11:36 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Support of current no-kill regulation on Umpqua River

Dear Commissioners:

I have fished the Umpqua River for 42 years. This river system is invaluable to the sport fishing economy of the state of Oregon. To allow the killing of native steelhead would be a travesty and only speed the extinction of these wonderful fish. Too many runs have already gone extinct in the northwest due to poor management. When the water is low in other northwest rivers and the fish aren't there the Umpqua gets hammered because fishermen know there is a good healthy run. Too many fish are killed now simply for the eggs used for catching spring Chinook. The Oregon State Police do a great job but they can't cover all the bases. To allow this to happen legally in front of their noses makes me sick to think about (as well as the police I'm sure).

Many of the guides support the no-kill regulation, they know preserving this run is their livelihood. Any true sportsman supports this ban as well as barbless. Let us keep the curb on greedy native fish killers. We need these fish on their spawning beds, not in someones freezer to brag about and rot.

Thank you Gentlemen.

Steve Evans
2744 Kismet Way
Eugene, OR 97405

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Robert and Jean Pollock <rjpollock@riouasa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 9:49 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: ODFW Coastal Management Plan

I am writing with regard to the ODF Coastal Management Plan for salmon and steelhead. I live in Roseburg, OR, and I have fished the North Umpqua River regularly for winter steelhead for the past fifteen years. I would like to go on record as being strongly opposed to allowing the harvest of wild fish in the mainstem or the North Umpqua River. The fishery is, at present, a good one, although ODFW's estimate of a 30,000 to 35,000 fish run is wildly optimistic, based on my observations and those of my friends. Wintertime fishing pressure is steadily increasing on the Umpqua, and the best way to convert a good wild fishery to a mediocre one is to allow harvest of the wild fish. How many times do we have to degrade a wild fishery by overharvesting before we finally learn that it doesn't work? Or do we ever learn?

Robert Pollock
385 Oakview Drive
Roseburg, OR 97471

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Mike Morrison <spike@janssenlaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 8:40 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: CMP/Umpqua wild fish non-retention

May 26, 2014

Dear Commission Members,

The current prohibition against taking wild steelhead from the Umpqua basin should not, for many reasons, be changed. The current catch-and-release policy is sound and prudent. In fact, I urge you to prohibit the killing of any wild steelhead in the entire CMU.

A healthy North Umpqua steelhead population represents an economic boost to the the local economy. Anglers and others travel from near and far to Douglas County because of the lure of these fish, all of them spending money while in the County. Allowing wild steelhead to be killed will not improve the local economy and will likely damage it.

The Umpqua basin is a unique and valuable natural resource as it supports the last, best large wild winter steelhead population in the United States. There simply is not good scientific data to support the argument that the population of wild steelhead will survive if anglers are allowed to kill wild fish. Changing the regulation away from non-retention would be risky and irresponsible. Please leave the sound decision to prohibit the killing of wild Umpqua steelhead to stand.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Morrison
Ashland, OR

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Terry Rudolf <rudolf.terry@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 6:56 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wild Fish

I am writing requesting that regulations do not allow a kill of native steelhead on the entire Umpqua River drainage system.

I have fished this river for 58 years and current regulation have protected the native run from ruin.

Again I ask that no kill of native steelhead be allowed on the Umpqua system to include tributaries and estuary.

Thanking you for consideration. /s/ Terry Rudolf

Sent from my iPhone

Amanda Mckenzie

From: jwbb@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:56 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: the coastal management plan

Hello,

I am a friend of the North Umpqua River. Though not a fly fisherman I am a member of the Steamboater's. Therefore; I am very concerned with the health and welfare of the Umpqua river system; and that concern strongly encourages the ODFW to make protecting the native fish population a high priority with regard to the Coastal Management Plan.

Thank you,

Jeff Bond-Brickey
Seattle, Washington

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:16 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: CMP

Supplemental correspondence for Exhibit K.- Teri Kucera

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Vallier [<mailto:tcvallier1981@charter.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 8:54 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: CMP

To Whom it may concern,

Do not allow the harvest of wild steelhead on the Umpqua River. This river has a lot of fishing pressure on it and by opening it up to keeping wild steelhead it will expediently increase pressure and decrease the fish run. The department needs to manage the resource better.

Sincerely, Tom.

Amanda Mckenzie

From: pemoore11@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:58 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua wild steelhead

As an avid steelhead fisherman and member of numerous clubs and organizations, I support conservation and the enhancement of the anadromous fisheries in the state of Oregon. I respectfully request that you reject the pending proposal to allow the taking of wild steelhead in the Umpqua river. There are plenty of wild steelhead and hatchery steelhead available in the coastal rivers such as the Elk, Alsea, Siletz, etc. that are available to fishermen, and the Umpqua is and should remain one of the few that preserves it's precious run of uniquely large wild Steelhead. Please keep the Umpqua river safe from the degradation of it's precious wild steelhead for the sake of our future generations.

Paul Moore,
Fisherman

Amanda Mckenzie

From: larry levine <lplevine@centurytel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:46 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua steelhead

Please do *not* allow the harvest of wild steelhead on the Umpqua River, especially the N. Umpqua. Thanks in advance. lpl

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 12:39 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Testimony on ODF&W Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan
Attachments: ODFW Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan 2014.pdf

Supplemental correspondence for Exhibit K. – Teri Kucera

From: Mark Labhart [<mailto:mlabhart@co.tillamook.or.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 11:38 AM
To: 'odfw.commission@state.or.us'
Cc: Ed Bowles @ ODF&W; Rick Klumph @ ODF&W
Subject: Testimony on ODF&W Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan

Hello Commissioners

I am hopeful that I can testify in person on June 6th in support of the draft Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan. I have an event that I need to be at with Sen. Betsy Johnson at 1:30 PM at the Capitol but will come over right after that in the hopes you are still taking public testimony. If I'm not able to make the Commission mtg. on time please consider this letter from the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners as Tillamook County's testimony in support of the CMP.

Mark Labhart

Mark Labhart
Tillamook County Commissioner
201 Laurel
Tillamook, OR 97141
503-842-3403
503-801-1704 (cell)

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
Bill Baertlein, Mark Labhart, Tim Josi
201 Laurel Avenue
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Phone 503-842-3403
Fax 503-842-1384
TTY Oregon Relay Service

February 19, 2014

Fish and Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem OR 97302

RE: Comments on the Public Review Draft Coastal Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan

Dear Commission Members:

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners wishes to go on record in support of the recently revised Draft Coastal Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan.

This Draft Plan addresses conservation and management of the remaining anadromous salmonids (salmon & trout) on the Oregon coast. We believe this plan does address the goals of ensuring long-term sustainability of wild salmon and trout. It maintains the current number of coastal fish hatcheries. It maintains and expands fishing opportunity for wild fish. It balances hatchery programs and fishing opportunity with wild fish conservation by accepting higher risk to wild fish in some locations and lower risk in other locations. We hope it will avoid ESA listings and last but not least provide a degree of certainty. We believe this plan addresses key outcomes important to Tillamook County and the citizens who visit our county such as enhanced overall fishing opportunities, reduction of overall conservation risk, the identification of wild fish conservation areas, stabilizing hatchery fish production levels, simplifying angling regulations, improving data collection, managing predators, prioritizing effective habitat restoration efforts and keeping the Hatchery Research Center as a key player in providing valuable science.

One of our Commissioners was one of the 54 people who participated with the four stakeholder groups and team meetings that were held over the last two years. We believe the department listened carefully and incorporated our input into this draft. In addition, the department used the work of a Habitat Technical Work Group to refine the draft. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODF&W) conducted a mailed opinion survey to 7,500 people to gather input and incorporate it into the Draft. A Multidisciplinary Science Team advised the department on matters of science to insure

Fish and Wildlife Commission
February 19, 2014
Page 2

the data was technically accurate. Once the draft was complete six public meetings were conducted to gather further public input. About 100 people attended the public meeting held in Tillamook. Following these public meetings, the Department again asked if the Plan was on track. We provided further input of which the department was willing to further "tweak" the plan to insure it had public support while still meeting the goals.

While this plan will meet the need to deter litigation, we hope that in the future the plan can be reworked and enhanced so as to provide increased hatchery opportunities for improving the quality of fishing for all of our residents. We need a balance between the local values of catching a hatchery fish against the value of a wild fish. As stated earlier, we fully endorse keeping the Hatchery Research Center as a key player.

We ask that you also support and approve the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON



Bill Baertlein, Chairperson



Tim Josi, Vice Chairperson



Mark Labhart, Commissioner

cc Roy Elicher
Ed Bowles
Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Arnie Roblan
Representative Debbie Boone
Representative David Gornberg

G:/LETTERS/SUPPORT/DFW Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan 2014.doc

Amanda Mckenzie

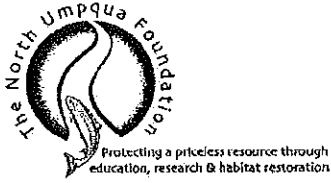
From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 9:43 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: CMP Final Draft - comments from The North Umpqua Foundation
Attachments: TNUF comments to ODFW draft CMP 3-8-14.pdf

Supplemental correspondence for Exhibit K. – Teri Kucera

From: Rich [<mailto:Rich@NorthUmpquaRetreat.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 9:36 AM
To: ODFW.CoastalPlan@state.or.us; odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: CMP Final Draft - comments from The North Umpqua Foundation

The North Umpqua Foundation appreciates that the Final Draft Coastal Management Plan retains the wild steelhead release regulation. We expect that the Commission may hear further public comment in opposition to this regulation. So, we have attached our comments, which apply to this Final Draft CMP as well as the previous version, to re-affirm our support of wild steelhead release throughout the Umpqua basin. Thanks you,

Rich Grost, President
The North Umpqua Foundation



To: Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division (ODFW.CoastalPlan@state.or.us)

Re: Coastal Multi-species Conservation and Management Plan (January 2014 draft)

Date: 3-8-2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Richard Grost
Idleld Park, OR

Vice-president
Becky McRae
Glide, OR

Secretary
Michael Morrison
Arcata, CA

Treasurer
Garry Kenny
West Linn, OR

Peter DeLuca
Boise, ID

Scott Goodwin
Sacramento, CA

Rita Kenny
West Linn, OR

John Kober
Portland, OR

Karl Konecny
Glide, OR

Jon Kurtz
Idleld Park, OR

Patricia Lee
Idleld Park, OR

Brian Light
Beaverton, OR

Patrick McRae
Glide, OR

James W. Ratzlaff
Roseburg, OR

Chuck Schnautz
Idleld Park, OR

Charles Spooner
Glide, OR

Peter Tronquet
Medford, OR

Jim Van Loan
Idleld Park, OR

The North Umpqua Foundation (TNUF) is a regional, non-profit, volunteer conservation group dedicated to protecting the North Umpqua River through education, research, and habitat restoration. We have collaborated with ODFW many times since the 1980s to conceive, fund, and implement projects such as Fish Watch, Steamboat Falls fish passage improvement, and aquatic habitat enhancements. We also collaborate indirectly via scholarship support to students working on research projects to improve resource conservation and management.

Because it directly affects our mission, we appreciate the opportunity to review the January 2014 draft of the Coastal Multi-species Conservation and Management Plan (Plan). In general, we urge you to strengthen the *conservation* component of the Plan with respect to management of wild native fish, especially within our North Umpqua basin.

Toward that end, we support the continued designation of the North Umpqua River (above Rock Creek) as a Wild Fish Emphasis Area. We urge conservative management for the protection of wild native fish until enough is understood about escapement, distribution, production, harvest rates, and hatchery ratios to clearly indicate that harvest would be inconsequential to the long-term abundance of wild fish. On the other hand, we support maximizing harvest of hatchery fish and non-native fish where it can help reduce their respective impacts on wild native fish.

Regarding steelhead, we support your proposal to continue no harvest (compulsory release) of all wild steelhead in the mainstem and North Umpqua rivers. We encourage increased monitoring of harvest and escapement. Toward reducing the percentage of hatchery fish on spawning areas, we support marking of all hatchery fish and would support decreases in hatchery releases and/or increased *focused opportunity* for harvesting hatchery fish where it can be accomplished with minimal incidental impact to wild fish. We also encourage the emergency closure of steelhead fisheries at times (e.g. low water) and in places (e.g. Sawyer's Rapids, refuge tributary confluences) where incidental wild fish mortality is excessive.

Regarding spring Chinook salmon, we support reducing harvest of wild fish in the mainstem Umpqua to increase protection for wild South Umpqua spring Chinook. We encourage increased monitoring of harvest and escapement. Toward reducing the percentage of hatchery fish on spawning areas, we support marking all hatchery fish and would support decreases in hatchery releases and/or increased *focused opportunity* for harvesting hatchery fish where it can be accomplished with minimal incidental impact to wild fish.

Regarding habitat management and monitoring, we plan to continue our efforts to assist in improving access, habitat, and monitoring methodologies. We suggest that the Plan emphasize habitat improvement and fishery monitoring efforts within ODFW to inform future management decisions.

Lastly, as the Plan evolves, we urge you to also address the suggestions offered by the Interdisciplinary Science Team and proffered within the Independent Panel Review.

We look forward to further opportunities to review and improve the Plan and hence the management of our fishery resource. Please let us know when these arise.

Richard Grost
President, TNUF
www.NorthUmpqua.org

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Teri Kucera on behalf of Roy Elicker
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:21 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: CMP Letter
Attachments: Final Draft CMP Letter.doc; ATT00001.htm

Supplemental Correspondence for Exhibit K. – Teri Kucera

From: Shawn Miller [<mailto:shawnm@wvi.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 5:01 PM
To: Elicker Roy; Melcher Curt
Cc: Smith Jack
Subject: CMP Letter

Roy,

Can you distribute by email the attached letter to the Commission members and your staff. Let me know. Thanks.

Shawn Miller
Miller Public Affairs
PO Box 12732
Salem, Oregon 97309
503.551.7738 p
503.375.8471 f
Shawn@MillerPublicAffairs.com
www.MillerPublicAffairs.com



CCA

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
OREGON

May 29th, 2014

ODFW Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

Chair Bobby Levy and Commissioners,

CCA Oregon supports the important role hatcheries have long played in maintaining and enhancing the Pacific Northwest's salmon and steelhead fisheries while conserving, sustaining, and rebuilding salmon and steelhead stocks. We continue to support efforts to improve the efficacy of the hundreds of hatchery programs operating throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

We appreciate the need for Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMP's) for Coastal Rivers as required in the current Native Fish Conservation Policy and understand that failing to fulfill our legal obligation to have a plan in place might open the door to more divisive lawsuits, filed by misguided organizations which we have unfortunately witnessed in other areas of the state and Washington. Having no plan would most definitely increase the likelihood that such actions might prevail. Finding ourselves in that position we support the Coastal Multi-Species Plan (CMP) in its final draft not for the science, or lack thereof, it represents, but because not having a plan would be a much worse choice.

Modern hatchery science shows us that all hatchery fish and programs are not created equal and that improvements in stocking regimes, rearing regimes and brood stock standards can help reduce interactions with wild fish without needlessly constraining opportunity.

In contrast, fishery managers cannot show where removing hatchery fish has resulted in wild populations that perform better than areas where hatchery fish still exist. Additionally, managers are often unable to estimate what degree of risk hatchery fish represent or what kind of increase in natural origin spawners can be expected if hatchery fish are removed.

Hatcheries fuel most of Oregon's popular salmon and steelhead fisheries so it is understandable that recreational anglers are very concerned about growing threats and

reductions in hatchery production, including through litigation and agency management plans.

We feel that before production levels or stocking regimes are changed, there needs to be a clear demonstration that current hatchery operations and or protocols are causing a specific quantifiable conservation problem. Furthermore, we believe that many potential problems can be addressed by improved broodstock standards, stocking regimes, increased harvest angling opportunities, and or other regulatory actions less likely to reduce opportunity. We strongly believe that conservation measures should be monitored and periodically reviewed for effectiveness at the population level.

In the current Native Fish Conservation Policy we are advised there are three areas of emphasis and that **“the third ensures that, consistent with native fish conservation, opportunities for fisheries and other societal resource uses are not unnecessarily constrained.”** We believe the CMP, while necessary, may conflict with this mandate. Ostensibly, the CMP represents to provide additional opportunity, however upon careful analysis, it is clear that the additional opportunity is resultant from gerrymandering of existing hatchery production. In short, this is a shell game that results in constraining angling opportunity geographically and reduces the economic and societal benefits that opportunity represents.

In an effort to maintain the current hatchery production, though greatly reduced from historical hatchery levels, the CMP consolidates production by removing hatchery fish from one river and moving them to another nearby river. When you crowd the same amount of production into fewer and fewer areas the result is often more fish in hatchery ponds, a lack of public access to accommodate increased angler levels, and a decrease in the quality of the angling experience caused by over-crowding. Maintaining production does not necessarily maintain opportunity.

Finally, we would like to conclude our comments with our concerns regarding wild steelhead. We are pleased that wild steelhead populations are considered stable and not at risk but are very concerned that managers are recommending limited wild steelhead retention despite the lack of any stakeholder support. While populations remain stable we agree with the stakeholders that this stability could be compromised if wild harvest was allowed and would prefer that any proposed wild harvest occur only if there is a clear indication that the wild population has experienced substantial and sustained growth.

Once again we support the Coastal Multi Species Management Plan (CMP) in its current form to comply with the current Native Fish Conservation Policy but feel that we must begin a much larger policy discussion between the agency, the license holders that largely fund its budget, the rural economies that are affected by these management decisions and the officials we have elected to represent our interests.

We urge ODFW to develop a statewide plan for maintaining our current hatchery programs and production levels while also looking for opportunities to enhance hatchery production benefiting recreational fisheries. Recreational anglers are willing to pay more for increased numbers of fish and opportunity, but are not willing to pay more for reductions in hatchery production and fishing opportunity. While this is a key priority for anglers across the state, fisheries in our coastal and southwest Oregon Rivers are heavily dependent on ODFW's leadership related to hatchery production and management.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the public record on this matter.
We look forward to helping the agency make Oregon once again a destination fishery
while protecting and enhancing both wild and hatchery populations.

Sincerely,

Jack L Smith

President CCA Oregon
Chair Hatchery Sub-committee

cc: Roy Elicker
Curt Melcher
Ed Bowles
Bruce McIntosh

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Kevin Goodson
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:30 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie; Thomas Stahl; Ed Bowles
Subject: FW: CMP

From: tony@summerrun.net [<mailto:tony@summerrun.net>]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 7:21 PM
To: ODFW.CoastalPlan@state.or.us
Subject: CMP

I feel the pressure on the wild winter steelhead on the Umpqua system is too great to have a kill and still have good fishing. The fishing pressure the last few years has grown immensely and with the low water years we have had and will continue to get with climate change the fishing will not hold up. I have herd people talk about the economic benefit of a kill fishery but I feel that would be short lived. After a few cycles the fishing would be slow and the money would go elsewhere. I am a guide and my people come here to catch and release fish. 90% of the guides that fish the Umpqua feel the same as I do. I asked Ed at the Reedsport meeting if the ODFW has done a study on the pressure the Umpqua gets and how many fish would die if a kill was put on. He did not give me an answer because no one has done a study and no one knows how many fish will die or if the run can actually handle it. Please save are good fishing and keep it catch and release.

Thank you

Tony Wratney Summer Run Guide Service

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Coastal Plan
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 8:10 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie; Thomas Stahl; Ed Bowles
Cc: Kevin Goodson
Subject: FW: Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan

From: Dan Burke [<mailto:burkedanus@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 8:02 PM
To: ODFW.CoastalPlan@state.or.us
Subject: Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan

ODFW Commission, recently I received an email regarding the Umpqua River Basin in regards to the Winter Steelhead run. The issue was regarding science that has shown the run capable of some harvest not just catch and release, along with anglers wishing for some harvest? This is extremely important to our local economies and I am extremely curious why this is slipping through the cracks? With the recent funding issues this seems like a very poor decision!

Dan Burke

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Rich Zellman <steelheadwater@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 1:03 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua proposal

Hello,

Hope this finds you well. Please take caution regarding wild fish kill on the Umpqua. The run is healthy, we should strive to keep it that way. It may take a few years but, with the amount of fishing pressure on the Umpqua, a wild fish harvest will have negative effect on the run. It's easier to take the fish away than to get them to come back. Poor returns mean less fishing, in turn leads to less money coming in to the area from anglers. Strong healthy runs keep the fisherman coming.

Best,

Rich Zellman

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Jon Lund <lundj41@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 12:30 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Coast Management Plan(North Umpqua Wild Steelehead);

Dear Commission Members,

I write to simply endorse those provisions of the draft CMP which call for a continuation of the current regulations regarding No Harvest of Wild North Umpqua Steelhead, (both Summer AND Winter). The current no-kill regulations demonstrate sound foresight and planning and there is no compelling reason to deviate from them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jon B. Lund
Eugene, Oregon

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 4:56 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Letter for F&W Commissioners June 6 meeting
Attachments: CMP FINAL DRAFT COMMENTS FROM SUSAN MORGAN.pdf

For Exhibit K. – Teri Kucera

From: Susan Morgan [<mailto:morgan@co.douglas.or.us>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 4:09 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Cc: roy.eliker@state.or.us
Subject: Letter for F&W Commissioners June 6 meeting

Please find attached a letter for the Commission relating to the adoption of the CMP at their June 6 meeting.

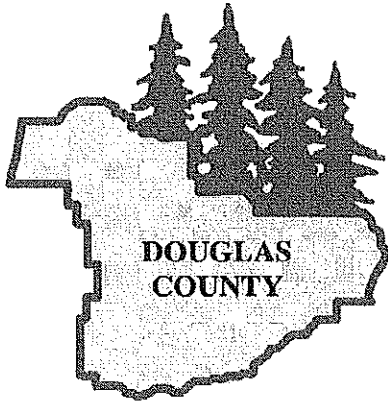
Thank you for your help in getting this letter to the members of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Susan Morgan

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me immediately. If you are not the named addressee you should delete this email and not disseminate, distribute or copy it.

Susan Morgan
Douglas County Commissioner
Douglas County Courthouse, Rm 217
Roseburg OR 97470
Office: 541-440-4201 / 800-224-1619
Cell: 541-537-0081
morgan@co.douglas.or.us



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DOUG ROBERTSON JOSEPH LAURANCE SUSAN MORGAN

1036 S.E. Douglas Ave., Room 217 • Roseburg, Oregon 97470 • (541) 440-4201

June 2, 2014

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Transmitted by email: odfw.commission@coho2.dfw.state.or.us

Attention: Coastal Multi-Species Conservation & Management Plan

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commissioners,

Please accept my sincere apology for not being in attendance at the Commission meeting on the 6th. I regret that I have a previous commitment that will keep me in southern Oregon.

As you know, I have participated in the development of the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) as a member of the Stakeholder team for the Umpqua Stratum and testified on the CMP before the Commission at your meeting in North Bend in April.

I know that at your Commission meeting you will have a number of individuals in attendance that oppose a retention fishery for wild winter steelhead on the Umpqua River. It is frustrating that, for a variety of reasons, we do not have an organized constituency of recreational anglers that are willing to make a very long day of it and travel to Salem for your meeting, so there will be no input from this constituency as you make your decision on the CMP.

Please allow me to reiterate for the record: As in most of Oregon's rural counties, recreational fishing is both an important part of the local economy and an important part of the social fabric. Both of these values clearly came forward in the stakeholder and public meeting discussion around harvest of wild winter steelhead on the Umpqua.

In your Final Review Draft for the Plan, it states that ODFW commissioned a study in 2013 that shows that support for wild winter steelhead harvest was nearly five times greater than those who opposed harvest. ODFW also stated that "North Umpqua wild winter steelhead populations have the most accurate information on abundance and the PVA model found that the Umpqua population could withstand a sustained harvest rate close to 50% without increasing its long-term risk of extinction". Given that your own study documents the overwhelming public support for wild winter steelhead retention and that your own biology and model show the Umpqua run is clearly sustainable at a 10% retention level, you may be perplexed as I am why your staff is

recommending wild winter steelhead harvest on 11 coastal rivers, but not on the Umpqua. There are enough fish to provide for a regulated retention harvest without impacting the catch and release fishery. I strongly and respectfully urge the Commission to include a limited retention fishery on the Umpqua.


The plan that you have before you will be in place for 12 years. So, that will mean that, despite public opinion and the best available science supporting wild winter steelhead harvest, anglers on the Umpqua will need to wait another 12 years to reopen this discussion. It is distressing to me that public opinion is being ignored and best available science is being ignored and it would be very helpful if we had clarity around how it **would** be possible to get to a limited retention opportunity. This issue is tremendously frustrating to our anglers who want this opportunity.

The anglers of today and the anglers of the future will engage and stay with the sport if there is a diversity of opportunities for fishing and there is a good possibility for a successful fishing experience. Each time we make it harder to figure out how, when, where it is legal to fish, or fail to provide an opportunity for a successful experience, we make it easier for the public to choose a more accessible recreation opportunity like golfing, going to a sporting event, or playing video games.

The future of the Fish Division depends on providing those opportunities, and the recreationists, fishing families, and small businesses of Douglas County depend on it, too.

Many thanks for the time you will take on this issue.

Sincerely,



Susan Morgan

Douglas County Commissioner

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Ed Bowles
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 7:29 AM
To: Steve Godin
Cc: webber@blackchapman.com; Roy Elicker; Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: RE: Simplifying Fishing Regulations

Hi Steve... Thanks for your input on the budget and CMP. I am copying Roy on this and will include as CMP comments to the Commission for their meeting Friday. Regards... Ed

From: Steve Godin [<mailto:stevegodin@rconnects.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 9:57 PM
To: ed.bowles@state.or.us; webber@blackchapman.com
Subject: Simplifying Fishing Regulations

Hi Ed,

I hope all is well. I was at the ODF&W Budget Proposal meeting in North Bend on May 27. Director Elicker told all present that he (ODF&W) would start over with simplified fishing regulations. I recommend that you start by making a change to the proposed Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), which is scheduled for review and approval by the commissioners on June 5,6 in Salem. I recommend that you make the harvest of Winter Wild Steelhead consistent. The CMP proposes that in the Mid-Coast and the Mid-South Coast that the harvest of Winter Wild Steelhead is 1 per day and 3 for the year. However, NO Winter Wild Steelhead can be harvested on the Umpqua River. Make the same 1/3 provision for harvesting Winter Wild Steelhead for the Umpqua River. This makes the fishing for Winter Wild Steelhead simple, go fish! Unfortunately, I won't be available to be at the Salem meeting to make this request in person and I would copy Roy Elicker, but I don't know how.

Thanks for your consideration,
Steve Godin
GRWB STEP Volunteer
CCA, Oregon South Coast Chapter President

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 2:13 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie; John Seabourne
Subject: FW: Proposed fish kill on N. Umpqua

From: Bruce Moore [<mailto:twinman10@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 2:03 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed fish kill on N. Umpqua

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Winter fish kill on the N. Umpqua river.

I live in CA but make several trips per year to fish the N. Umpqua with guides who reside in Oregon. I support the local restaurants and hotels as well.

It would be a shame to kill wild fish in this great fishery.... and it will certainly impact the local economies who rely on fisherman from out of state to support them'

PLEASE DO NOT IMPLEMENT A WINTER FISH KILL ON THE N. UMPQUA

sincerely,

Bruce Moore
Carmel, CA.

Amanda Mckenzie

From: CHamerstad@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:19 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: North Umpqua Winter Steelhead no-kill issue

Dear Comissioners,

As my fishing buddy has so well stated below our thoughts on the proposal before the Commission, I also urge you to support a "YES" vote on imposing a no-kill requirement for WILD Winter Steelhead on the North Umpqua River.

"As a California guy that loves and spends lots of time in many of the best fisheries OR has offers, I truly covet the Winter Steelhead fishing on the North Umpqua River, and I urge and fully support a "YES" votes on imposing a no-kill mandate for wild Winter Steelhead.

As all of you who will make this important decision a reality are fully aware, our best fisheries are already under lots of pressures with our Steelhead populations struggling to maintain healthy numbers, not to mention show healthy population growths. These are beautiful creatures that have an almost prehistoric toughness about them that makes them challenging to catch in every way. It would be very sad to see this critically important vote in any direction other than for a no-kill mandate.

Since there are already far too many severely depleted Steelhead fisheries, let's not add the North Umpqua River to an already sad situation."

Respectfully,

Chuck Hammerstad
780 Portswood Dr
San Jose, CA 95120
408-997-5460

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Steve O'Brien <nattyzed@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:01 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua Wild Steelhed & your economy

Hello,

I'm a catch and release steelhead fisherman living in California. Each year friends and I come to the Umpqua to fish for these magnificent fish. I estimate we spend \$1000 day each on these trips, or about \$35,000 / Yr as one small group of friends. All that money goes in to your local economy of guides, license fees, restaurants, hotels, car rentals, etc.

Furthermore, I am a member of a 350 person fly fishing club (Diablo Valley Fly Fishers). We regularly share information between ourselves regarding which rivers are fishing well. We avoid those with issues like approved wild steelhead harvesting.

I would encourage you, if only from an economic standpoint, to continue to support catch and release only of wild steelhead on the Umpqua. The last thing I will want to see on that river is a string of dead, beautiful fish just because someone can. I would not return.

thank you for your continued support of wild steelhead (unlike the knuckleheads of California past)

Sincerely
Steve O'Brien
722 Jadecrest Ct
San Ramon, CA 94582
925-785-9990

Amanda Mckenzie

From: johnlefler51@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 2:00 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Regarding rule changes on the Umpqua River

Sent from Windows Mail

I just heard about a possible rule change that was proposed to allow the harvest of wild steelhead on the Umpqua river. I travel from southern Oregon a number of times a year to enjoy the fantastic steelhead fishing. I strongly encourage you to keep the rules of this fishery the way they are now, with the release of all wild steelhead. My friends and I spend quite a bit of money driving to and staying in the area, all because we like catching and releasing these beautiful fish.

Sincerely
John Lefler

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Henry Carlile <hcarlile@spiritone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:18 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: North Umpqua Winter Wild Fish Kill Proposal

Dear Commissioners,

I am deeply troubled that ODFW is considering a wild winter steelhead kill on the Umpqua. This steelhead run is not just a rare state treasure, it is nationally, even internationally, famous. There are few robust wild steelhead runs left in Oregon, and the Umpqua's is too important, especially given the preponderance of other catch-and-kill opportunities throughout the state. My wife and I visit the Umpqua every year, mainly because of its wild steelhead. The thought that you are considering such a proposal makes us sick at heart. Please do the right thing: don't allow a catch-and-kill fishery on this beautiful river.

Sincerely,

Henry Carlile

Amanda Mckenzie

From: andrewnyewood <andrewnyewood@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 2:47 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wild Fish Kill

Dear ODFW,

Over the last couple of months the discussion of the Umpqua Wild Fish Kill has been heating up. I'm writing you to disagree with this proposal. There should be no wild fish kill anywhere. Wild Steelhead are a scarce resource. The existing gene pool is necessary to maintain existing populations.

Please withdraw this the winter wild fish kill proposal.

Best regards,
Andrew Wood

Amanda McKenzie

From: Greg Kessler <info@elihoward.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 12:11 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed wild fish harvest

Please do not open the Umpqua winter steelhead fishery to a wild fish harvest. This would be detrimental to the precious few wild steelhead left to be caught. Please protect our remaining wild steelhead populations. I want my great-grandchildren to be able to experience wild steelhead fishing.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Lee Church <chur0085@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:13 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua

To whom it may concern,

I just wanted to express my concern about the proposed winter steelhead regulation changes on the Umpqua. I have greatly enjoyed I'm experience on the Umpqua over the past few years an active duty military member stationed in N. California, I can tell you that river is an absolute treasure and the wild steelhead that reside in it waters undoubtedly in need of protection. Thank you for your time.

V/s

Lee Church

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Rick Davis <rick73142@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 2:22 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: North Umpqua Winter Steelhead no-kill issue

As a California guy that loves and spends lots of time in many of the best fisheries OR has offers, I truly covet the Winter Steelhead fishing on the N Umpqua, and I urge and fully support a "YES" votes on imposing a no-kill mandate for wild Winter Steelhead.

As all of you who will make this important decision a reality are fully aware, our best fisheries are already under lots of pressures with our Steelhead populations struggling to maintain healthy numbers, not to mention show healthy population growths. These are beautiful creatures that have an almost prehistoric toughness about them that makes them challenging to catch in every way. It would be very sad to see this critically important vote in any direction other than for a no-kill mandate.

Since there are already far too many severely depleted Steelhead fisheries, let's not add the N Umpqua to an already sad situation.

Respectfully,

Rick Davis
73 Grove St
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Amanda Mckenzie

From: David Conca <daveconca51@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 7:55 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wild Winter Steelhead kill fishery on the Umpqua

I would like to voice my concern and opposition to any proposed regulation on the Umpqua system that allows Wild Winter Steelhead to be harvested by sport anglers. These fish are too valuable to harvest. I spend a significant amount of money every year to travel to the Umpqua system to fish and I have been doing that for close to twenty years. Wild steelhead are the reason I visit the Umpqua. Wild steelhead are superior to hatchery steelhead and they pretty much raise themselves. Much greener than a hatchery operation. I don't believe there are any river systems in the Pacific Northwest that support wild steelhead populations that are robust enough to sustain a harvest fishery. The Umpqua has an amazing population of wild steelhead, particularly the winter fish, but there are not enough to justify harvest. This type of discussion should be tabled until there are 50,000 winter steelhead going over Winchester Dam every winter.

Please protect the Umpqua wild winter steelhead. No kill fishery.

Thank you,
Dave Conca
Sequim, WA

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Mike Culcasi <mculcasi@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 4:44 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: North Umpqua

I'm a California native that loves and spends lots of time in some of the best fisheries OR offers. My fly fishing colleagues have experienced the Winter Steelhead fishing on the N Umpqua, and based on their feedback, I urge and fully support a "YES" vote on imposing a no-kill mandate for wild Winter Steelhead.

As all of you who will make this important decision a reality are fully aware, our best fisheries are already under lots of pressure, with our Steelhead populations struggling to maintain healthy numbers. These are beautiful creatures that have an almost prehistoric toughness about them that makes them challenging to catch in every way. It would be very sad to see this critically important vote in any direction other than for a no-kill mandate.

Since there are already far too many severely depleted Steelhead fisheries, let's not add the N Umpqua to an already sad situation.

Sincerely,

Mike Culcasi
Conservation Committee Member
Flycasters of San Jose

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Bob McMaster <Bob@hunterproperties.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:19 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Don't Allow Killing of Wild Winter Steelhead on the Umpqua

I am a frequent visitor to Oregon fishing the Umpqua in both the winter & summer for steelhead. Wild steelhead - especially wild winter steelhead - are the most magnificent game fish on this planet. It's pretty simple to me - you allow the killing of wild winter steelhead - I won't spend my money on your fishery.

Thank you.

Amanda Mckenzie

From: elihowardsurfschool@gmail.com on behalf of Eli Howard <info@elihoward.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 7:35 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wild Fish Harvest Kill

Please do not open the Umpqua to a wild fish harvest. The system cannot sustain the impact of a wild fish kill policy. I want my grandchildren to experience the thrill of catching and releasing wild fish! Please let wild fish live! I travel to the Umpqua several times each year from Southern California for the chance of catching a wild steelhead. I do not travel there to catch hatchery fish. Thank you for carefully deciding this matter. No wild fish harvest!

Thank you,
Greg Kessler
PO Box 232690
Encinitas,
CA. 92023

--

Eli Howard Surf School
PO Box 232690
Encinitas, CA. 92023
(760)809-3069

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Ken Morrish <ken@flywatertravel.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:37 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Coastal Management Plan

Dear ODFW Commission:

I am writing you as an Oregon resident, sportsman and business owner. Needless to say I am very concerned about the future of the Umpqua river and its precious returns of wild steelhead. In today's world where wild stocks of fish are collapsing and environmental strains on habitat are increasing, it is imperative that you do all that you can to preserve and protect wild stocks, especially on the Umpqua. The short term gain of a few anglers with wild fish in their coolers is not worth the long term sacrifice of demeaning a race of wild fish that is arguably the state's most vibrant and most important in terms of overcoming the obstacles ahead.

I am an owner of fly fishing travel company in Ashland called Fly Water Travel. We have nine full time employees and sell more than 7 million in travel annually. Our company specializes in catch and release destinations. 95% of our trips are No-Kill and the systems that are healthiest and best manage wild fish tend to bring in the highest dollars. This is true in BC, Norway, Russia, Argentina, New Zealand and virtually everywhere except here at home where it matters most. As managers of our resources, please look forward and not backwards. We entrust you to do this and to take a long view of what will best serve our communities.

We send folks to the North and South and occasionally the main Umpqua. There is additional demand for all of these systems in the fly fishing market but we lack qualified catch and release fly fishing guides, especially on the Main Umpqua.

The most desirable steelhead systems in North America are 100% catch and release. These include the Skeena System and its many tributaries and the Dean River. These rivers have been "no kill" for decades and their popularity only increases. Currently our business alone sends roughly 1.5 million dollars in annual angler traffic to these systems. The overall net income produced by these systems' visiting catch and release anglers exceeds 15 Million dollars. Moreover there are no open spaces to be sold at these destinations. More than half these destinations have waitlists. The Silver Hilton Lodge on the Babine has 82 anglers waitlisted. The reason for this is that wild steelhead stronghold systems are becoming increasingly rare and anglers are traveling further to find them and paying more to fish them. The Umpqua is arguably Oregon's greatest stronghold. While the rest of the world is trying to figure out how to reverse their management mistakes and get back to the health that the Umpqua currently enjoys, we are taking a short sighted view of an incredible long term opportunity. Do not re-open the system to the harvest of wild fish.

On behalf of our business, the guides we support, and all those in the community that benefit from the guests that we send to this system, I urge you to do what is best for the fish and all those that will come here in search of them in the decades to come.

Ken Morrish

Fly Water Travel llc
479 Russell St, #103
Ashland, OR 97520

1-800-552-2729 / 541-488-7159

<http://flywatertravel.com>

Check out our blog, [Fly Water's Reel News](#)

Amanda Mckenzie

From: josef minton <josefminton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 6:17 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Wild Umpqua Steelhead

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for taking a moment to read my opinion and include it in your decision making process. It has come to my attention the Umpqua river is being considered for a winter wild fish kill. Please do everything you can to lead us on the path of keeping these fish alive.

As you know the Umpqua river is a special, unique and sacred place to many, including me, my wife and our friends. In the past nine months, I/we have traveled from our home in Chicago twice to spend time on the Umpqua and fish for its beautiful steelhead.

When I add up the economic value of these trips to Oregon for the sole purpose of catching and releasing these rare fish, the number totals over \$5,000. This includes flights, rental cars, gasoline, food, beverage, hotels, guide fees, fishing equipment and fishing licenses. This is a recurring revenue source from a respectful out of state visitor. All of this revenue goes to employ the residents of your great state and helps to fill the government tax coffers so you can continue to provide services for the citizens of Oregon and protect their/your/our natural resources, such as these fish.

Up and down the western coast of north America we have encroached on the habit of Steelhead, over-harvested the population and limited their ability to recover. It has come to the point where killing one of these fish would reduce the gene pool by a significant amount. In my opinion we need to make every effort to expand the gene pool so the species can survive, grow and maybe return to its historical level. Obviously expanding the gene pool will cost money. I am just one of the many fisherman/steelhead lovers who provides this capital and will continue to do so as long as the resource is there.

I want to make this point clear....If the resource is not there, I will not bring money to your state. Let's work together, build this resource and I will spend ever increasing amounts of money helping employ your citizens and protect the resources.

Thank you for your consideration,
Joe Minton

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Genevieve Long <glong@spiritone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:29 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua Winter Fish Kill

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Please reconsider the idea of a winter wild fish kill on the Umpqua. Since my husband and I visited the beautiful North Umpqua River in August 2011, we have made it a regular part of our summer vacations. We spend approximately one week each year staying at the historic Steamboat Inn, hiring a guide, shopping at the local general store, fishing and touring the area. On our way, we visit Ninkasi Brewing and the Red Barn Market in Eugene, where we also spend money. If the North Umpqua wild fish are depleted, we will go elsewhere- perhaps Montana, Idaho or Alaska. We are fortunate to be able to pick and choose our fishing destinations, and currently, we choose the North Umpqua each year.

I know many other anglers love the North Umpqua for its pristine waters and wild fish. The fish bring significant monetary gain to the area. For example, our guide Rich Zellmantravels from Ashland in the summer months; his original home is in California, so his guide business on the North Umpqua has brought many thousands of dollars into the state. Oregon's rural areas need tourism dollars to replace resource extraction dollars from logging and other industries. Wild fish are increasingly rare, and as such, an important attraction. Please consider how wild fish are closely tied to Oregon's future as you consider this issue.

Respectfully yours,

Genevieve Long

Genevieve J. Long, PhD, PC | (503) 734-6853
www.genevivelong.com | glong@spiritone.com
Writing for health care and higher education

Amanda Mckenzie

From: John Appleton <pvtapple@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:19 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua Winter steelhead kill fishery

To whom it may concern:

As a tax payer, fisherman, and sportsman I would like to express my support of the catch and release season on the Umpqua river. Maintaining a catch and release season until the fish return at a sustainable level to support harvest is incredibly important. The Umpqua is a state treasure and the fish in that river are of special significance to the state tourism and to the local economy. Opening up a kill fishery on this river at this time may increase fishing on this river in the short term, but will have a long term negative impact on the river and economy as the number of fish will drop significantly. Please do not make the Umpqua a kill fishery at this time, in the future as numbers increase to a more sustainable level I would greatly support a limited kill fishery.

Thank you
John Appleton

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Jason Hartwick <speybum@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 7:46 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Save wild Umpqua River Steelhead

To whom it may concern,

I am not going to lie, I get pretty tired of having to sign petitions or write letters to the state of Oregon every couple of years fighting to save and protect Umpqua's wild run of steelhead. As one of the last decent wild steelhead runs in the state, why open it up to kill, when there is even more room for recovery of these magnificent fish? If Oregon gave a shit about their fisheries, they wouldn't even consider opening the Umpqua and other rivers such as the rogue to wild harvest. Isn't that what pathetic hatchery fish are for? Or is because the state thinks they can make a dollar which probably just ends up in a endless spiral of producing hatchery returns which are defining as well.

As a native Californian, I use to come to Oregon and spend my hard earned money to chase steelhead on rivers such as the Rogue and Umpqua to name a few. Both these rivers support decent runs of wild winter steelhead, does this mean we should kill them? Hell no, we should try to protect them and try to boost runs to where they might have been in the 40-50's. Then people wold have to spend a lot less money and less takes to catch one fish!

California if the perfect example of what can be done right. We have a limited number of hatcheries on only a couple of winter steelhead rivers. A no kill on wild steelhead and strict angling regulations have rebounded many runs of wild winter steelhead. And a few rivers in the state easily support more wild steelhead than the Umpqua....trying to think why I would spend money to come to Oregon to fish for few wild steelhead in a place they have no hope. If the ODFW open the Umpqua or any more rivers to kill harvest, the star of Oregon will never see another dollar from me or many others I from California or many others states.

The idea of a kill fishery on the ump qua saddens me and I just don't get, but then again, I don't think YOU get it either.

Jason Hartwick

--

Jason Hartwick
Steelhead on the Spey Guide Service
www.steelheadonthespey.wordpress.com

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Forrest Arakawa <forrest@mtbr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 6:51 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua River Winter Fish

We spend several days on the Umpqua each winter fishing for wild Steelhead. If you propose a winter kill, I will most likely stop coming there. Many of my friends who spend a considerable amount of money in that area each year feel the same way.

Best,

Forrest Arakawa
Lafayette CA. 94549

Forrest Arakawa
925-588-9231
Forrest@mtbr.com

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Bill John <bill@odysseyteams.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:15 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua River, keep it wild

I heard rumor of a potential winter wild fish kill. Please do not proceed with this. I fish there and value it's wild nature.

Bill John
President & CEO
Odyssey Teams, Inc.
510-867-4466 Direct
800-342-1650 Main office
www.odysseyteams.com

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Ron Meler <rmeler@bergelectric.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 7:22 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Rich Zellman; Roger Casper; Bill Shaw; Dave Armstrong
Subject: Umpqua Winter Fish Kill!

I value the Umpqua's robust wild steelhead run and spent my money to come to catch and release these wild fish so they keep returning as I do. Let's leave the wild steelhead wild as much as possible. These radical river conservation efforts are really upsetting to me as we have screwed up the rivers to start with and continue to meddle in nature to future screw up the ecosystem.

Ron Meler
Contracting & Scheduling Analyst
Bergelectric Corp.
650 Opper St.
Escondido, CA 92029
Office: (760) 746-1003
Direct: (442) 281-8043
Mobile: (619) 723-0487
Email: rmeler@bergelectric.com



Amanda Mckenzie

From: Victor Yee <victoryee1@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 6:23 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Catch and Release only for the wild steelhead!

To whom it may concern,

My name is Victor Yee and I live in California. I am a steelhead fisherman that travels to fish with a guide each year on the Umpqua. I bring my dollars to Douglas County to specifically catch and release the Umpqua River's wild steelhead. Over the years, I have noticed a drastic increase in angling pressure and have always been in support of the river's catch and release policy so this incredible strain of fish is assured to continue to flourish. I find it amazing that the harvesting of wild Umpqua River steelhead is even being considered. Why risk one of the last great wild winter steelhead runs when we have seen what has happened to other rivers in the past? Places like British Columbia have recognized the value of these wild fish and instated mandatory catch and release regulations decades ago. They have built an entire travel industry around providing people from all over the globe with an angler opportunity to come and "catch and release" the Province's wild steelhead. The uncertainties presented as angling pressure rises exponentially is a real cause for concern. Let's please follow suit with the

flourishing rivers of British Columbia and manage the Umpqua's
great run of wild
steelhead on the side of conversation. Catch and release makes
the most sense for
ensuring that these incredible fish continue to flourish and that
angling dollars continue
to roll into the Umpqua Valley.

Thank you, Victor Yee

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Richard Knapp <rick.knapp184@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 6:02 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: umpqua wild fish kill

To whom it may concern,

I am an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. I hunt, fish and backpack in the wilderness areas of the pacific northwest. I urge you to please consider allowing the wild steelhead to rebuild the fishery on the Umpqua river system. Your hatchery programs are failing and the only answer is to knuckle down and undo the wrongs that have gotten us in this predicament.

Sincerely,
Rick Knapp

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Tim Grogan <tgrogan06@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 8:59 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua Winter Kill Regs

To whom it may concern,
I am an avid sport fisherman and have fished for many species of fish through out the United States, Canada and Mexico. One of my favorite fishing opportunities is fly fishing for wild steelhead in the Umpqua River during the winter season. I don't see how opening such a quality "wild" fishery is going to improve the experience. There are many hatchery supported fisheries throughout the Pacific North West where catch and kill is encouraged.

The Umpqua is such a special place that offers anglers the opportunity to catch wild fish in such a beautiful setting. I cannot imagine that allowing anglers to kill these special wild fish is going to be a benefit worth the sacrifice to anyone. The Eel River in California is one of my other favorite winter fisheries. It is also managed for catch and release fishing and in my opinion the quality of the fishery is far superior to many of the other rivers in California.

I spend a considerable amount of my discretionary income on hotels, meals and fishing guides in pursuit of wild steelhead. The value of these fish in my opinion is without measure. I don't have any issue with the take of hatchery steelhead and in fact I keep several for the smoker each season. I feel that the wild Umpqua fish are far too special to jeopardize their successful spawning numbers by allowing them to be harvested when we have so many hatchery fisheries for that purpose. Please do not consider harvesting Wild Umpqua Winter Steelhead.

Sincerely,
Tim Grogan

TIM GROGAN BUILDERS, INC.

8105 GERMONE RD.
SEBASTOPOL CA. 95472
(707) 888-5344 cell
(707) 829-0509 office
(707) 829-0519 fx

Amanda Mckenzie

From: John Luis <jluis5010@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 11:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: North Umpqua Winter Steelhead no kill issue

I spend good money coming to this tributary with hope to dance with a specie that is being decided whether to kill or not. I and friends come specifically to fish for this specie on a catch and release basis. Simply put harvesting this specie would lessen anglers who come from afar and spend good money in your communities. Ask your local motels, restaurants and businesses that depend on out of area anglers what their take would be if the no kill crowd stop coming.

Please think this through. It's already a depleted fishery. The numbers aren't there. Look south and north of you and see what has happened to their "sacred" winter runs.

You've done the good up to now. Keep it that way.

Sincerely

John Luis
5010 Rhonda Drive.
San Jose, Cal.95129

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Fred/Lambie Worsley <ifworsley@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 8:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us; Roy.Elicker@state.or.us
Cc: zalunardo382@msn.com; Gene Mitchell; Jason Mendenhall
Subject: Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP)

Commissioners,

Soon you will have the task of deciding on approval or not for the implementation of the CMP as outlined in the final draft from the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the next 12 years. I and fellow sportsmen have given public testimony on April 25th along with e-mails and letters. At the April 25th meeting we gave to you a Statement of Opposition with 1,097 signatures that are asking that we go back and redo this plan and consider the scientific facts and data not wild fish bias. The data is precise, straight forward, and comes directly from the the ODFW. As mentioned in our Statement of Opposition and public testimony the South Umpqua spring chinook run is viable at the 95% confidence level and at the Roseburg public meeting the proposed stricter restrictions on wild fish harvest will NOT produce greater numbers of spring chinook in the South Umpqua. The straight forward fact is that habitat and juvenile survival rates are limited and this was per your own ODFW employee, ED Bowles. There is no guarantee or promise of improved habitat and this is the limiting factors for increasing this run. That is the scientific and biological fact, period. This proposed regulation change will do nothing for improving this run. Further, this run has maintained stable, viable (95% confidence level) healthy numbers of fish for the habitat available SINCE RECORDS HAVE BEEN KEPT--50+YEARS! Finally, having stricter regulations on the North Umpqua from what they are today makes no since on this river. It is not even in question on viability from the ODFW! It makes no sense and only shows the bias and lack of creditability from the head of the Fish Division in refusing to use good biological, scientific data and evidence.

Further evidence of this last statement is the resistance of allowing a LIMITED harvest of wild winter steelhead on the Umpqua system when EVERY bit of evidence shows a limited harvest is sustainable WITHOUT jeopardizing the wild fish run. The ODFW's own biological data, OSU survey, the Roseburg and Reedsport public meetings, and the statement of opposition with 1,097 signatures from concerned citizens and sportspeople all support a LIMITED harvest. With this much fact, data, evidence, etc please ask the question why in gods name did Mr. Ed Bowles and crew come to the conclusion that a LIMITED take could not be allowed? This is beyond reason and fact plain and simple. It is wild fish bias and no biological facts to back it up! We as sportspeople are just plain tired and fed up with paying more and getting less for our money and effort when there is no common sense and ignoring the biological facts. Part of the mission statement is providing optimum opportunities when the resource is protected. That Commissioners is the case here!

Another question that the Fish Department has failed to answer on the Umpqua system is what run size kicks in the different sliding scale levels on spring chinook on the North and Main Umpqua? This area has been vague from the very start and when asked at the public meetings no one has come forth with an answer. Why? How is this going to be monitored and decided and will the public have input BEFORE decisions are made? Or is this one of the "throw a dart" type actions and classify this as scientific biological data? Many who signed the Statement of Opposition have asked this question.

One observation that came to light from the April 25th meeting of which we gave testimony was the fact that the South Coast region had a meeting with Ed Bowles of the Fish division the day before the public meeting and came to certain agreements/concessions with this South Coast Region/stakeholder? It sounds like the meeting was such that the South Coast Region/stakeholder changed their stance and supported the CMP plan/draft after certain changes were made at that meeting. Was that meeting arranged by the South Coast Region/stakeholder and/or Ed Bowles? Is that a normal process/procedure at that time in this overall process as I was under the assumption that the public meetings were completed with the exception of the April 25th meeting where the Department presented the the plan that they represented earlier in the process. It seems like changes may have been made shortly before the April 25th meeting which the public was not aware of? Is that correct? If so, why wasn't the Umpqua stakeholders/public approached for discussion as we submitted earlier our Statement of Opposition upfront and out in the open? It seems apparant that the CMP process has been overshadowed in non-transparent ways and left a lot of us, the public, guessing, confused, and out of the process. Maybe by design? At any rate, it would seem that Mr. Bowles or other person from the Department should have been equally accommodating for discussion once our Statement of Opposition was received,

especially after 1,097 signatures. Even after submission on April 25th we/ have not received any communication from Mr Bowles or his staff.

As to mandatory reporting, if the Department was doing what it should have been doing I think everybody would be in agreement. But that is not the case at the present time. In this area (Umpqua system) rarely do we see the regional management staff out on the waters or creel surveys being done on our anadromous fisheries. It is time that our regional biologists and management staff become involved with the general anglers on the water and less of at their desks or with minority special interest groups of which many of the stakeholder groups were picked from, not the general anglers. Before mandatory reporting is required, I think a better alternative is to build a better relationship/image with the general common angler and that is the responsibility of the regional ODFW staff. One suggestion would be to hold informal informational/sharing/comment sessions maybe once every six months or so gaining trust and confidence with the public instead of the non-transparent, covert, thrust down the throat method used in the CMP process involving the general angler at the last moment of the process. In the past and to the present the general perception on the water is the more information we as anglers give to the ODFW the more negative consequences come back to the angler. This is evident in the 40 fish limit, that was reduced to 20 fish, then to 1 in 5 to now no wild fish on steelhead and proposing a further restriction on chinook. To compound this further the Department has taken away from the public, and especially the kids, the stocking of trout in our beautiful river systems (North, South, and Main Umpqua). And further cutbacks than in the past in our hatchery stockings of anadromous fish. Why in the heck would I be for mandatory reporting when everything indicates less for more and the likelihood of the general angler getting the shaft once again. And the Department is out on the road doing its "dog and pony" show asking for more money. You wonder why tag and license sales are down and our youth drastically dropping in numbers both in hunting and fishing from past numbers.

Please, as Commission members and ultimate decision makers look at the real facts, not the bias and persuasion, and at least send this plan back to the ODFW for further revisions that make sense and fit the mission of the ODFW in total. Ask the hard questions that need to be asked and not rubber stamp this plan because the Fish Division thinks it is a feel good idea. There are 1,097 citizens/sportspeople and others that are requesting and counting on you to make the logical and fact based decision that will govern our fisheries for the next 12 YEARS. Thank you.

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:25 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: No wild steelhead kill on the North Umpqua

From: Jon Tapper [<mailto:jon@valentineventures.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:24 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: No wild steelhead kill on the North Umpqua

Dear Commission,

I am writing to ask that you **do not** permit the harvesting of wild steelhead on the North Umpqua. There are many reasons, some including:

1. This is the last, best wild steelhead run in the United States, a world-famous fishery characterized by uniquely large fish as recognized in the CMP. Sound management requires caution with such a resource.
2. ODFW relies on their 2004 Biological Assessment to support harvest. Based on admittedly sketchy data, they estimate a run of 30,000 – 35,000 wild steelhead with over half coming from mainstem Umpqua River tributaries. Neither ODFW nor BLM can identify the tributaries with sufficient high quality rearing habitat to produce the half-million smolts needed for this estimated return (and it likely doesn't exist).
3. Pending Federal legislation would transfer management of O&C lands currently administered by BLM to state control, under the provisions of Oregon's Forest Practices Act. This will result in additional deterioration of fish habitat in mainstem Umpqua River tributaries
4. Climate change will have a disproportionately high impact on the upper Umpqua Basin for both flow levels and temperatures. As the only Cascade Mountains rivers in the CMP, the Umpqua headwaters depend on snowpack for summer flows, and snowpack is diminishing – note the recent news articles about record low snowpack in Crater Lake, the source for much of the North Umpqua summertime flows.
5. Given the budgetary problems ODFW is facing, they cannot identify the current state of wild steelhead or adequately monitor impacts from harvest combined with these other factors. This isn't the time to increase pressure on the best wild run in the US.

Please make the right decision and **do not** permit the harvesting of wild steelhead on the North Umpqua.

Thank you,

Jon

Jon Tapper
Valentine Ventures, LLC
www.valentineventures.com
(541) 389-4148 [office]

(866) 989-4148 [toll free]

(541) 389-4171 [fax]

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Eric White <eric.white@symphonyasset.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:48 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: north umpqua

To whom it may concern,

I'm aware that you'll soon be making a decision on whether or not to allow a wild steelhead harvest on the North Umpqua. I wanted to share with you my feelings on this subject in hopes that you'll keep the North Umpqua 100% catch and release.

As a resident of the san francisco bay area, I have first-hand experience with rivers that used to have prolific steelhead runs and have now been reduced to runs that number in the 100s or less. Rivers such as the Russian and Eel have runs that are just a fraction of what they used to be. We can debate the causes and/or solutions, but everyone who loves fishing for these fish would agree that any activity that reduces or threatens a run's health/population should be avoided at all costs.

Nine or ten years ago I made my first steelhead trip in Oregon, on the Rogue. I ended up with three fish that trip, 2 hatchery and 1 wild. The wild fish was the prized fish of that trip, not just for its size but because it was wild. That was a great trip, but the Rogue doesn't interest me much anymore, definitely not as much as the Umpqua. The beauty of the Umpqua is unforgettable but the quality of the fish is what keeps me coming back. Such a vibrant ecosystem with an amazing run of wild steelhead, it really needs to be protected.

Of course I don't want anything to change for selfish reasons. But let's also acknowledge the impact on the surrounding community when we spend time there. My trips involve local fishing guides. We're shopping at local grocery stores and eating at local restaurants. And we stay at places like Steamboat Creek Inn.

Having a gem of a river such as the North Umpqua, with all its beauty and these awesome runs of wild steelhead, that is something very unique and it should be treasured. Letting people harvest wild steelhead would be a huge mistake. Please do not allow this.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Eric White
Middle Office Manager



phone: 415-676-4018
fax: 415-676-2499
e-mail: eric.white@symphonyasset.com
<http://www.symphonyasset.com/>

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachment to it may contain confidential and legally privileged information. This information is intended only for the recipient named above. If you are not the intended recipient, take notice that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking of any action based upon this information is prohibited by law. If you have received this e-mail in error, please return it to the sender and delete this copy from your system. Thank you.

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Bob Jones <btj1398@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:38 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua wild steelhead

Please keep the proposal to place a no kill regulation for wild Umpqua steelhead.
I can fish many runs of hatchery steelhead throughout the state. However, there is only one Umpqua, with its history, beauty, and wild fish.

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Dave <nervracker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:47 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: No wild kill fishery in Umpqua basin.

To whom it may concern:

This is the last, best wild steelhead run in the lower 48. It is a world-famous fishery characterized by uniquely large fish. Sound management requires EXTREME caution with such a precious resource. People from all over the world come to this river every year to chase that once in a lifetime fish. If the Umpqua were opened to wild kill, those fish will not be in there for very long, and the revenue that is currently generated from such an intact resource will surely diminish as the steelhead runs will. Be smart make the decision to keep the Umpqua basin CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY. That is the only logical decision. KEEP THE FISH IN THE RIVER WHERE THEY BELONG.

If people want to kill fish, there are plenty of other streams and rivers close enough by that have hatchery programs that offer that type of opportunity. LEAVE THE UMPQUA STEELHEAD ALONE. There is no reason to open it for a kill fishery, nor is there any good that will come from doing so.

Thank you
Dave Reese

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:52 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Kill Limit

-----Original Message-----

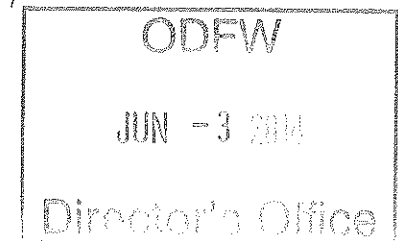
From: Fred P [<mailto:f.pendergast@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 2:46 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Kill Limit

Oregon Dept of Wildlife,

Are you kidding me. How could you ever pass a law that would allow a kill limit of wild steelhead on the Umpqua River in Oregon, the river is one of the few in the west with a considerable number of Wild Steelhead. I travel from California several times a year just to hook one of your precious fish. What's to consider, please No harvesting of Wild Steelhead.

Fred Pendergast
11700 upland Way
Cupertino, CA. 95014

DAVID HALL
1011 Lone Rock Road
Glide, OR 97443



May 29, 2014

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish & Game Commissioners
4034 Fairview Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302

To the Oregon State Fish and Game Commission

My name is David Hall. I reside at 1011 Lone Rock Road, Glide, Oregon. I have lived and fished on the Umpqua System for over 50 years. Twenty of those years I guided on the North Umpqua as a licensed Oregon Guide (Oregon Coastal Management Plan). I write this to oppose the regulation to open up the Umpqua System to the harvest of Wild Winter Steeled.

Regulations: All regulations must meet strict guidelines. . . the FIRST of which is, is it a regulation that can be enforced? We have two game officers (one full time) for a county that is the biggest in Western Oregon. From Diamond Lake to Reedsport, North almost to Cottage Grove and South halfway to Grants Pass. . . Ask State Police Game Officer Don Ferrick (our one full time officer) if that regulation can be enforced with the manpower they have. NO WAY until the economy of Oregon turns around. We are laying off Fish and Game officers. It also leaves you open for lawsuits. I was a regulation rep for our guides' association for many years.

History Lesson: Up until four or five years ago, the pressure to open the main Umpqua to harvest Wild fish was nil. The Rock Creek hatchery situated on Rock Creek, a tributary of the North Umpqua, had been very successful in their rearing of hatchery Winter Steeled used to seed the main stem and the South Umpqua for years. Anglers were more than happy to release big Wild fish simply because they could expect to harvest a few hatchery fish through the Winter season because the hatchery run was healthy. That all changed when the Rock Creek hatchery had water quality issues and lost numerous runs of small frey, and started planting just a trickle, 10% of normal. That meant the number of hatchery fish returning was next to nothing, and remains so today. In no time the grumbling started after three very poor years—2011, 2012, 2013. 2014 wasn't much better. Not one word of this hatchery disaster was made public, and your credibility took another hit.

This is a perfect example of why you have to manage for "no kill" for Wild Steelhead. You put it all on the hatcheries, and this is what can happen. Next time you won't have a Wild run to sacrifice. If you think your revenues are down now, just wait. There's a reason people come back year after year to fish the Umpqua, and take pictures of those big beautiful fish they catch because they know the fish are there. In 6-7 years with the methods they use today, trolling motors on drift boats, side drifting, low water years, and a multitude of other deadly techniques, that run will be gone . . . forever. It will be remembered by another set of angling photos in a museum explaining what USED to be here in Oregon. Thousands of anglers fish that river in the Winter, and until your hatchery had problems most anglers were content.

One newspaper article by the local paper explaining the hatchery problems would have saved your credibility and you'd have been heroes. Instead your district biologist took the other route. Let's not tell anyone there won't be any hatchery fish for a few years, and hope no one says anything until we get the hatchery fixed. In the meantime they can buy Steeled tags for fish that won't be there. Our license and tag fees pay for those hatchery fish . . . !!

Economy: Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado aren't as lucky as we are. They don't have Steelhead. . .of any kind. I worked for twenty five years in the fishing industry and have seen what managing for Wild trout in those states has done. Mind you, these are trout, and those states invested in the long haul, and put their energy in preserving their fish. Their reward is hundreds of millions of dollars every year in revenues that don't reach Oregon. People that come here to fish for Steelhead, a famous and world class fighting fish, come here to catch Steelhead, NOT KILL THEM. I never lost a client in over twenty years who said he/she wouldn't come unless they could kill a Wild fish. NOT ONE guide wants to kill Wild fish, and have expressed that at all public meetings. YOU ARE THE ONLY ENTITY THAT WANTS TO DO THAT IN THE ENTIRE STATE.

Weather: We don't get the Winter rains we used to and if predictions are correct, we won't see those rains again in this cycle. In low water those fish keg up in big pods, waiting for higher water in order to move upstream to spawn. We had a buffer, as the rivers were high much of the time and tough to fish. A couple fish a day was a great day. Now with low water in the winter the numbers are 15-30 a day. Those Winter rains of old kept the fish moving, and the rivers higher. . .guides didn't have the big pods of fish to hammer, over and over, like they do now with their trolling motors and side drifting. . .it's no contest in low water, and that is the norm now. You'd lose at least a third of the WILD run the first year. That's how many people fish there. . . remember, we're only talking 8-9 thousand fish. . .it's not like we have 75 thousand!!!

FYI: Douglas County has a big Steelhead Derby on the Umpqua every year. Guides donate time, the anglers pay BIG bucks for two days of fishing. The Winter Steelhead Derby is the biggest money raising event by guides and anglers in this state. (All the monies are donated to fish enhancement programs in conjunction with ODFW). There is a waiting list of anglers to do this event, and in all the years no one ever killed a Wild fish and not one person has ever complained. They all knew that going in. It was catch and release of Wild fish (hatchery fish caught in this derby may be harvested). . . remember, 90% of comments regarding the regulation are negative. Only a small group of people, who fish for food, want to kill Wild fish.

You've been entrusted with managing this wonderful game fish that only exists in a few places on this planet and as of today we have almost nothing left of our population of Wild Steeled anywhere in this state. You want to allow the LAST healthy run on the West Coast of Wild Winter Steeled to become just like all the rest of the runs we used to have.

Thanks for your time.

Respectfully submitted,



David Hall

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Thomas Stahl
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:09 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: STAC CMP letter to Commission - June 6
Attachments: STAC letter for CMP - 2014 6-2.pdf

Amanda,

More comments if you are the official keeper of them.

Tom

From: Thomas VanderPlaat [<mailto:tvanderplaat@msn.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 10:50 PM
To: Kevin Herkamp; Debbi Farrell; Stahl Tom - ODFW; odfw.info@state.or.us; Ed Bowles; bruce.a.mcIntosh@state.or.us
Cc: Tom VanderPlaat -work; Deborah Yates; Richard Bertellotti; Jeff DeVore; Brian Hudson; dondianewenzel@msn.com; Keith Miller; Pat Gefre; Reese Bender; Lin Howell; Ken Range; Jim Phelps; David Dunahay
Subject: STAC CMP letter to Commission - June 6

Roy, Bruce, Ed and Tom:

Please see attached STAC letter to the Commission for the June 6 meeting agenda item on the CMP approval. Thanks for all the hard work on the plan.

Thanks
Tom VanderPlaat
Chair - STAC

June 3, 2014

To: ODFW Commission

From: Salmon Trout Advisory Committee (STAC)

Subject: Coastal Multi-Species Plan (CMP)

Dear Chair Levy and Commissioners:

The Salmon Trout Advisory Committee (STAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Coastal Multi-Species Plan (CMP). STAC supports adoption of the CMP and looks forward to working with ODFW on implementation of the plan's elements and action items. The key areas of comments are monitoring data, hatchery, wild interactions and communication with stakeholders.

STAC serves in an advisory capacity to ODFW's Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP). STEP provides over 133,000 hours of volunteers hours, which equates to \$3.6 million dollars of resources at minimal cost to ODFW. The dedicated volunteers raise and release over 4.7 million fish for the benefit of all. These valuable volunteers assist with a wide range of activities that improve and expand the state's fisheries resources.

We commend ODFW in their proactive approach to develop this complex and comprehensive plan. During the plan development, it was evident ODFW encouraged public input and made plan adjustments based on this input. This effort was done in order to balance the needs of the resource with those specified by the stakeholders.

The CMP was built on a foundation of limited data. There needs to be an increased emphasis on data collection and monitoring. The areas of habitat systems capacity and species abundance will continue to be a challenge given the variability of these systems and larger ecosystem influences. A key challenge of this plan is to understand the interaction of hatchery and wild fish. We would encourage the continued collaboration with the Hatchery Research Center and other key agencies to work towards improvements of fish and their habitats.

We also encourage the Department to maintain an adaptive management approach and communicate with the local stakeholders to seek their assistance and input on management adjustments. The CMP takes a broad view, which can reduce the focus of the local elements for specific areas and issues. There are other broad elements such as climate change and ocean productivity that can impact, to a greater degree, the overall plan. In the efforts to adapt to the future changes, it will be important that ODFW communicate with stakeholders at all levels, in all areas.

The CMP may have impacts on future hatchery management operations. The STEP hatcheries and the valuable volunteer-based operations are important to the economy, jobs of local communities and associated fisheries. ODFW needs to work with these hatcheries to make operations adjustments based on new data and protection of the fish resources.

The funding for data collection should be made a higher priority including partnerships with key watershed stakeholders for collection of significant parameters (number of spawners, water quality, and quantity parameters). Baseline monitoring is important to understanding the systems and must be evaluated prior to making changes, otherwise, it is difficult to evaluate whether changes have actually had the desired effect.

ODFW Commission

June 3, 2014

Page 2

STAC supports the adoption of the CMP and stands ready to provide guidance to ODFW as the CMP is implemented. ODFW will need to communicate with STAC and the valuable STEP volunteers as we work together to improve fish and fisheries for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Tom VanderPlaat
Chair – STAC

Cc
Roy Elicker, Director
Ed Bowles, Fish Division Manager
Tom Stahl, Project Manager
Kevin Herkamp, R&E/STAC Coordinator
STAC Members

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Tyler Holloway <holloway.ty88@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:06 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua No Harvest on Wild Steelhead

ODFW Commission,

This is the first letter I've ever written to the Department, which is a testament to how strongly I feel about the issue.

The Umpqua River is the last stronghold of wild winter steelhead in the United States. As a fishing guide on the Umpqua River I strongly oppose the harvest of wild steelhead. Over the past several years I've noticed growing interest from my clients to catch large wild winter steelhead and to then release them, the Umpqua basin is the best place in the US to do this.

Please strongly consider keeping the CMP as is, with no harvest on wild steelhead in the Umpqua system.

Thank you for your time.

-Tyler Holloway

Hollowaybrothersfishing.com

--

-Ty Holloway

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Garrett StricklandRealtor <garrett.strickland@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:44 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please Help

I write this email with concerns of your office's proposal on a winter fish kill for the Umpqua River. I value the Umpqua's robust wild steelhead run and spend my hard earned money to come to catch and release these wild fish so they keep returning. I also ask you take into consideration the hard working people that rely on people like us (fisherman) returning every year to pursue these fish. From the local fishing store owner, to the restaurants and most importantly the people that completely rely on our income that time of year, the local fishing guides.

I leave you with this

You always hear stories of our elders catching crazy numbers of fish and how great the fishing was...."those were the good ol days" Well this is our good ol days and the scary version is us telling our kids kids, or even worse our own kids, about how we use to catch wild fish and them in amazement about how wild fish use to exist. It's not too late so please do what you can to preserve wild fisheries because each individual wild steelhead is important

Thank you

--

GARRETT STRICKLAND
G&S Realty Team
Keller Williams Real Estate Roseville
916-517-0878 cell
916-231-7982 office
916-2317-983 fax
garrett.strickland@gmail.com

The heart of my business relies on referrals from people like you! If you have friends and/or family members in need of real estate services and/or foreclosure counseling, please let me know so I can help! Thank you!

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Flood, David (HPSW BSM Product Unit) <david.flood@hp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:09 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Winter Wild Steelhead Kill for the North Umpqua River

Dear Sir or Madam,

I understand that a winter wild Steelhead kill limit is being considered for the North Umpqua river, again. I want to provide some brief input that I hope you will consider as you make this decision.

The North Umpqua is a beautiful place and it's wild steelhead population is unique. I enjoy visiting your state and spending my money to 'catch and release' these magnificent wild fish so they keep returning (along with me). I encourage you to not approve a winter wild Steelhead kill limit for the North Umpqua river.

Thank you.

Dave Flood

Dave Flood, PMP
Engineering Program Manager – BSM Product Unit
HP Software – IT Management

+1 707 968 5523 office | +1 530 368 6159 mobile | david.flood@hp.com
www.hp.com/go/software



Amanda Mckenzie

From: randy brown <randalwbrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:06 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Opening up a kill fishery on wild steelhead in the Umpqua drainage

I oppose opening up a kill fishery on wild steelhead in the Umpqua drainage. I travel to Oregon a couple times a year to fish the rare fishing opportunity to catch and release wild steelhead on the Umpqua.

I spend my hard earned money and time on these trips because it is such a unique opportunity in such a beautiful place. I would hate to lose this opportunity.

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Michael Davidchik <steeliemike@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:04 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua River native fish Retension

Dr ODFW,

In regards to the possibility of retention of native Umpqua steelhead, I request that you continue with the current regulations and release all native summer and winter steelhead in this system. This storied fish cause fisherman like myself to travel countless miles, buying out of state licences and help to feed local economies.

We have catch and kill fisheries throughout the state as well as the Pacific Northwest, but the legend of the Umpqua has been bringing fisherman to its waters for decades in search of that native fish that the Umqua still has. Please continue to cherish this resource and manditory release of all wild fish.

Michael Davidchik
Camas, WA

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Al James <eggrobber@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:00 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: I support a No-Kill, No-Harvest Policy in the Umpqua Basin

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a native Oregonian and a life long fisherman. The Umpqua Basin is the last, best wild steelhead run in the United States, a world-famous fishery characterized by uniquely large fish as recognized in the CMP. Sound management requires caution with such a resource. Please continue to enforce a No-Kill, No-Harvest policy in the Umpqua Basin.

Thank you, Sincerely, Al James

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Bruce Ajari <bruce_ajari@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 9:23 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua

Dear ODFW:

It has come to my attention that you are proposing a winter wild steelhead kill on the Umpqua this season. Why? Wild steelhead are a resource that should be protected. We have done a lot to diminish its numbers from the historically high levels in the 50's and 60's.

I am a steelhead angler and feel that we need to release all wild fish. Please do not take this step backward and protect this wonderful gamefish. Do no allow catch and kill for wild steelhead on the Umpqua.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ajari
Truckee, CA

Sent from my iPad

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Jordan Friese <jordan.friese@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:00 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Opposition of wild Steelhead on the Umpqua

To whom it may concern,

Please keep the Umpqua river free of wild steelhead harvest. There are many more beautiful streams and rivers in Oregon that allow the harvest of winter steelhead, we do not need another.

Thank you
Jordan

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Jason Mendenhall <mendenhall_33@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:35 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Coastal multi-species plan

Hello commissioners,

My name is Jason Mendenhall. I'm writing this email to remind the commission that the proposed rule changes for the umpqua stratum are very flawed.

It's very frustrating as an "AVERAGE" angler that I will be getting charged more over the next few years for less fishing opportunity! The special interest (wild fish people) seem to be getting their way across the board.

The department's own biologist for the umpqua river says there's enough wild winter steelhead for a limited harvest, but yet that isn't going to happen because odfw listens to political pressure, not their own staff.

The plan says once hatchery steelhead goals are met, there will be an extra 30,000 steelhead planted in the South Umpqua. This is also a not going to happen. In the last 15 years there has only been 1 year that the department has been within 15% of the 120,000 smolts that are supposed to be released into the South Umpqua. This is very disappointing as "AVERAGE" angler. What does odfw plan to do to change the low smolt releases?

The department is trying to save the spring chinook on the South Umpqua river. The run has been stable for years. The habitat is the problem in that river. Now the department is going to take away the amount of springers we are allowed on the main and north umpqua. Taking fish away on the north umpqua makes absolutely zero sense! Trying to save fish in the SOUTH UMPQUA by taking away the amount of fish we can harvest in the NORTH UMPQUA is ridiculous! The north should have no changed made to the wild harvest of chinook! Another issue is that there is nowhere in the plan that says what a good-average-bad year is. How does the department plan to "guess" at the run size? This question has been asked and brought up at multiple meetings, and still no answer. I, along with many other anglers, have little faith in the guessing ability of the odfw. I'm sorry to be blunt, but that's the truth.

I testified at the odfw commission meeting in April at the Mill Casino. I, along with three other anglers, gave the commission a statement of opposition with almost 1,100 signatures on it. I hope that the commission will take the concerns, frustrations, and disappointment of the AVERAGE angler into consideration before deciding whether or not to adopt the proposed CMP.

Anglers are getting less opportunity to harvest fish and charged more. How does this make any sense?

Thank you for your time,

Jason Mendenhall

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Dennis Jacobson <jacodennis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:07 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Yes vote for no-kill

Greetings,

As a California guy that recently began fly-fishing and looks forward to fishing the great waters and fisheries OR has to offer, I truly covet the Winter Steelhead fishing on the N Umpqua, and I urge and fully support a "YES" votes on imposing a no-kill mandate for wild Winter Steelhead.

As all of you who will make this important decision a reality are fully aware, our best fisheries are already under lots of pressures with our Steelhead populations struggling to maintain healthy numbers, not to mention show healthy population growths. These are beautiful creatures that have an almost prehistoric toughness about them that makes them challenging to catch in every way. It would be very sad to see this critically important vote in any direction other than for a no-kill mandate.

Since there are already far too many severely depleted Steelhead fisheries, let's not add the N Umpqua to an already sad situation.

Respectfully,

Dennis Jacobson
San Jose CA

Have fun - Be safe
408 391-0121

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Tom Melton <tom.melton@goldmedalsquared.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:05 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Fwd: Umpqua steelhead threatened!

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Tom Melton. I'm writing a brief note to encourage you to preserve the catch and release status for the wild winter steelhead on the Umpqua River.

The biological reasons and evidence for doing so should be obvious. There are dwindling rivers with wild runs of steelhead in the pacific. With that said, maintaining the river as a catch and release fishery gives this river an appeal for dedicated anglers around the world. The economic impact due to any harm of this fishery would have significant and negative repercussions throughout the regional economy.

Investing in the wild winter run of steelhead in your region will be an investment in your natural resources and your regional economy.

Please reconsider changing the regulations and please continue to protect this wonderful resource.

Tom

----- Original Message -----

--
Tom Melton
530.520.3909 (c)
530.267.5755 (fax)
uncle.melty (skype)
www.goldmedalsquared.com
Gold Medal Squared Volleyball
www.volleyballtoolbox.com

Amanda Mckenzie

From: JD Miller <johndmiller81@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:04 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Kill on Wild Umpqua Salmon

Hello-

It has recently come to my attention that ODFW is considering a proposal that would allow anglers to kill wild steelhead on the Umpqua River.

I'd like to voice my displeasure at that idea and urge you all to reconsider. As an out of state angler and avid steelhead fisherman, I travel 10 hours from my home in Boise, ID to the Umpqua 2-3x per year to catch wild fish. Each time I stay for 5-7 days and support the local community through meals, lodging, etc. There are multiple other rivers that are much closer to me that also support runs of steelhead but I chose to return to the Umpqua for two reasons: The scenery and the large, wild fish.

The Umpqua really is one of the last rivers in the PNW that supports a self sustaining population of wild fish. To possibly disrupt that for the sole reason that some anglers can only find value in a resource if it gives them a cooler full of dead fish would be a shame.

Please keep the Umpqua Wild

JD Miller
Boise, ID
(208) 859-0892

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Gary Cima <lxmathews@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 9:38 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please keep the Umpqua WILD

Dear ODFW folks,

Please consider keeping the Umpqua WILD!! We only have a few streams any more that are not filled with cloned-idiot fish.

Please.

My friends and I spend hundreds of dollars just to pursue these incredible gems each year.

Thank You. 😊

Gary Cima
Bend, OR

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Jordan Romney <jordanromney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:55 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua Wild Steelhead

Dear Reader,

This message is in regards to the proposed wild fish kill intended for this coming winter. My feelings towards the issue are coming from a younger generation of anglers sworn to protect the resource and preserve it. At this point I am amazed we still have any wild steelhead to pursuit and will do anything in my power to protect them. I do understand that there needs to be catch and kill fisheries to pertain to all anglers but it is very simple to have that be hatchery fish vs. wild fish. The delicacy of this issue is of the up most importance to our existence as humans. If we cannot figure out a way to restore and maintain the natural beauties in this world that mirrors our capabilities of a society and our priorities.

Please stop this before it starts.

Sincerely,

Concerned Angler Jordan Romney

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:10 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Harvesting Wild Steelhead

-----Original Message-----

From: Roger [mailto:rcasper1984@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 9:47 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Harvesting Wild Steelhead

To Whom It May Concern

Please reconsider your plan to Harvest Wild Steelhead on the North Umpqua River as a land owner in Southern Oregon I have seen what has happened to our local rivers it is tragic and that is a result of how they are managed . Oregon could be one of the most desirable places to fish for Steelhead if it weren't for the way it has been managed. Just look at what has happened to the Chetco they kill everything they look at. Unbelievable pressure no restrictions as to the amount of Guides and anglers motors on drift boats they just pound hole after hole. You really need to look at what they are doing in British Columbia as managing the Steelhead Fishing , Barbless Hooks , Catch and Release , Limiting the amount of outfitters . With the right management program it would be a positive for the Oregon economy anglers would come from far away to experience what I get to experience when I get to fish the North Umpqua and British Columbia.

Yours Truly
Roger Casper

Sent from Roger's iPad

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Tom Johnson <tomjohnson59@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 1:51 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: steelhead

I'm a steelhead fisherman and was saddened to hear of the proposed wild "fish kill". I value the run of wild steelhead beyond words and would very much like to express that I spend what little money I have to travel to the Umqua so that I may be fortunate enough to catch just one, then release it so that someone else may have that same opportunity. I pray that they keep returning. Thank you in advance for protecting them.

Sincerely, Tom Johnson

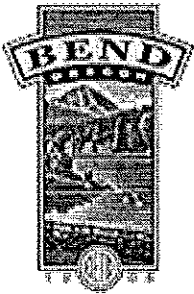
Amanda Mckenzie

From: Jesse Thomas <jthomas@bendoregon.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 1:14 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Retention of Native Winter Steelhead in Umpqua River

To Whom it may concern,

Please do not allow the retention of native fish on the Umpqua. Over the course of my life I have been fishing the North Umpqua for steelhead. Each year it seems that my friends and I encounter these rare fish more and more. With dwindling numbers already apparent to most the last thing, in my opinion, that the system needs is this. Please count me as a native fish advocate in favor of the preservation of these fish and against any retention of native fish.

Thank you,



Jesse Thomas | Performance Analyst
Community Development Department
City of Bend
O: 541-388-5561
www.bendoregon.gov



PUBLIC RECORDS LAW DISCLOSURE: Emails are generally public records and therefore subject to public disclosure unless exempt from disclosure under Oregon Public Records Law. Emails can be sent inadvertently to unintended recipients and contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient (or authorized to receive for the recipient), please advise by return email and delete immediately without reading or forwarding to others. Thank you.

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Chris Bjuhr <cbjuhr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 1:09 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed wild steelhead take on the Umpqua

Dear ODFW,

I'm writing to express concern over the proposed measure for a wild steelhead take on the Umpqua. In the long run I can't think of an example where allowing a wild take has been sustainable on any river. As the detrimental effects on wild fish from hatcheries continue to surface the focus should be on protecting wild runs which is 180 degrees from what is being proposed now. The result of this proposal is Umpqua's wild fishery would decline and that would be an economic loss to Oregon and immeasurable loss to steelhead anglers who treasure the Umpqua. These wild Umpqua steelhead are fabled and the stories written about them draw anglers worldwide.

Regards,

Chris Bjuhr
(415) 812 5044

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Huy <eatsfishandrice@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 12:59 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Umpqua River Steelhead

To whom it may concern,

I strongly harvest of wild steelhead on the Umpqua River. We need to protect native species and only allow harvest of hatchery fish. It is the best way to ensure the beauty of Oregon.

-John

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Dylan Rose <dylan@flywatertravel.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 12:48 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Ken Morrish; steelheadwater@gmail.com; David Kalinowski
Subject: No Kill On Umpqua Wild Steelhead

Dear ODFW,

Please do not open the Umpqua river to wild kill. I ask the council to deny the proposal on Friday to open for harvest on wild steelhead stocks.

As a former Seattle native now living in Ashland, Oregon I watched first hand the destruction of wild stocks in the Puget Sound basin. These rivers were open to catch and kill on wild fish right up until their eventual listing on the Endangered Species List and subsequent complete closure of the catch and release fishery. Please do not make the same mistake! Oregon is better than that and the Umpqua deserves better than that.

I value angling for wild steelhead above all else and I want my license dollars going towards the preservation of wild stocks and a reduction of hatchery stock. Please do not make the short sighted decision to open the Umpqua to wild kill.

Dylan Rose

Dylan Rose
Fly Water Travel llc
479 Russell St, #103
Ashland, OR 97520
800-552-2729
www.flywatertravel.com

Amanda Mckenzie

From: ALEC J GERBEC <ajgerbec@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:46 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: North Umpqua Wild Steelhead

I am writing this email in regards to the possibility that wild steelhead will be able to be kept in the near future. Is this really even up for discussion? Are we really going to let the last gem of Oregon and maybe even the whole west coast fall victim to something that plagues most all other rivers? I say this because I am an avid steelhead fisherman and spend about a month each year in the fly water section of the North Umpqua, aka the proving grounds to all fly anglers. From what I have heard through the years, less than 6 percent of fish caught in these waters are hatchery fish, which in turn leaves very strong genetics in the spawning grounds of these fish and continues to create a sustainable fishery.

Now lets look at the possibility that we opened the whole river up to keeping wild fish. What fish will people hope to keep, the big ones of course. That is the nature of the beast and culling those genetics out of the gene pool is nothing but a terrible idea. Having a deep passion for Steelhead, I make the pilgrimage here every year in hopes to have even the chance at hooking one of these fish and sometime that wont happen at all. That being said, just knowing that they indeed are still in the river in good numbers keeps hopes up and makes me continue to buy an out of state annual fishing license each year, drive eight hours, just so I can come fish here. Living in California, I am no stranger to what can happen when wild fish numbers are depleted to the brink of extinction and all you can think every time you fish is wow, I can only imagine what it used to be like. Hatchery fish are planted in the river for the sole reason for sport fisherman to keep, so why stray away from what we have already spent so much money on creating.

Hatchery fish are a whole different issue I would rather not vent about, if they are already in place then this shows that hatchery management on the North Umpqua has been seriously neglecting their job. I am aware of the issues that were swept under the carpet of large stocks dying at the rock creek hatchery due to warm water in the holding cells, which is why this proposition has come to the table. Why not just suck it up for a couple of years and allow your Hatchery fish to replenish so that the meat fisherman can again kill as many as they can when those numbers are up. I get it, you want the license sales and the money to keep flowing in from the fishing industry, but will you risk the future of this rivers wild steelhead existence by putting them in as a pinch hitter?

I challenge anyone to find another river in the U.S. where there is such a system of ideal conditions to keep wild fish stocks alive, they just dont exist. Lets look at a prime example of two rivers that were very much the same at one time, the Chetco and the Smith River of California. Big fish and a hatchery program located below the spawning waters, right? What most people dont know is that guides will fish both rivers in a day in hopes of keeping fish out of both rivers to maximize the meat in the cooler. They will start on the Chetco keep their limit and then make the quick trip to the smith in hopes of a hatchery fish to finish the day. That keeps the money flowing yes, but that also just shows what extents people will go through to keep as many fish as possible in a given day. Now if you look at the Chetco, you will find less large fish than there used to be and by far many more anglers with less ethics than those that fish the Smith River. The Smith has protected its wild fish now, since such a decline had happened before they had closed the retaining of wild steel head. Now if you look at wild fish numbers I am sure that you are seeing a steady rise in wild fish. The Chetco is digging a ditch that they wont be able to pull themselves out of and this will be the fate of the North Umpqua inevitably

if this happens.

When your grand kids grow up do you want them to look back and say, man I cant imagine why they ever allowed this to happen. Do want them to only be able to read in books of what great glory the North Umpqua held in its day? Do you want them to have to spend all sorts of money on trying to rehabilitate a river that currently can be protected of a future downfall? The North Umpua has already fell victim to dams and logging, is it really still a mystery as to why other rivers have lost their fish? What is the point of creating the fly water for wild fish, looks like you are going to have to re-designate the canyon on the maps as nothing special, which will in turn lose its attraction to anglers from all over the world.

Dont Do it!

Alec Gerbec